Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-082
Tuesday
28 April 1992

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FBIS-LAT-92-082 *28 April 1992*

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Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell, head of the recent OAS mission to Peru, says that there is "a great split between the political leadership and the people's feeling" within the nation. He says that the Armed Forces chose to support Fujimori "not because of a matter of discipline, but because they were convinced that the Peruvian nation would dissolve if the previous situation prevailed." Gros Espiell states that the mission's report will be given to the OAS on 1 May, and that he will return to Peru for a second visit on 2 or 3 May.

Peru

Former President Alan Garcia says that he has no immediate intentions to run for the Presidency in Peru, however, he says he cannot speak for the future by saying "either yes or no" because he does not "want to speak for destiny or Providence," in an interview on Santiago TV. Alan Garcia states that he intends to continue working for the opposition and to "win votes" for the APRA in future elections. In domestic news, Lima TV and radio reports the naming of Central Reserve Bank President German Suarez, and Attorney General Dr. Hugo Ernesto Denegri Cornejo.

Argentina

The government announces the official adoption of a control system for the export of materials, equipment, technology, and chemicals that may contribute to the production of weapons of mass destruction, NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS reports on 27 April. As part of a new nuclear nonproliferation policy, President Carlos Menem states that "our government has decided to turn Argentina into a prosperous country and a reliable member of the international community." Menem emphasizes that this measure will "not unjustly restrict legitimate trade" and it will be the "key to international cooperation that will give us access to high technology, which up to now was banned for Argentina."

Honduras

"The Honduran Government officially recognizes Alberto Fujimori as the chief of the Peruvian state," reports the daily TIEMPO. Foreign Minister Carias states that Honduras will maintain an ambassador in Peru and that the situation will be reassessed after the OAS completes its mission, the paper adds.

Haiti

Port-au-Prince radio reports that opposition groups in Port-au-Prince have declared 26 April to 1 May as a week of general mobilization with the "hope of obtaining the resignation of the provisional government."

St. Lucia

CANA reports that Prime Minister John Compton of the United Workers Party won a third consecutive five-year term. The report adds that "controversial businessman" Julian Hunte of the Labour Party came in second defeating incumbents Foreign Minister Neville Cenac and Agriculture Minister Ferdinand Henry.

Cuba

Vice Foreign Minister Denounces U.S. Embargo

FL2804120892 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ramon Sanchez-Parodi has denounced that the U.S. embargo against Cuba, in addition to hindering its development, is also trying to hinder relations with Latin America. Sanchez-Parodi, who is attending a seminar in Caracas on the outlook for relations between the Caribbean and Latin America, said that the U.S. embargo against Cuba runs counter to the trend towards integration which prevails in the countries of the region.

Castro Tours Alquizar Farm, Praises Workers

FL2804132092 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Apr 92

["Excerpts" of interview with President Fidel Castro by Mariela Diaz at the Alquizar Miscellaneous Crops Enterprise, on 27 April—recorded]

[Text] [Castro] What do I think of the province? Well, I think that the two provinces, Havana and Havana City, are working very well together, because, of course, this province alone—without the mobilization of 20,000 workers from Havana City—could not have won the potato war. We do not know what could have happened without the mobilization. But the fact is that the potatoes were harvested and are stored away in refrigerated facilities. Now we have potatoes to supply almost 3 million people and for state-run entities. The people think that there is a lot; there is enough, but the number of people is also high.

Certain figures have been mentioned I do not think are correct. It has been said that the eight-pound potato quota will last until December. I do not think that such figures should be issued. Because, first of all—there are several reasons—we have to keep an eye on the cold-storage centers. A malfunction could occur at any time. Something could affect the inventory, and the weight of the potatoes decreases as the months go by. Therefore, toward the end you have at least 100,000 fewer quintals as a result of the decreasing weight of the potatoes. Furthermore, we have to supply almost 3 million people, as I said before, besides the state entities. In addition, you always have to maintain a reserve in case we have to help another city or province at a certain time. As a matter of fact, during the recent harvest we distributed some potatoes, just as cabbage was also distributed to other provinces. You always have to put some away, so you can take a pound or two and help another province at a certain time.

That is why we can say that there is not enough to last until December at the eight-pound rate in the capital. We also have to keep in mind Havana Province, besides consumption at the state entities, which is high. Do you understand? In other words, we need 250,000 quintals a month. I do not think that we can say that the potatoes will last until December if we distribute them at the eight-pound rate. We might have to issue smaller quotas during the off months, June, July, August. Later on, issue a little less, and in that manner we can prolong it. But, above all, we have to have certain amounts available in case we have to help another city. We do not know if we are going to have a hurricane or something else happens. Maybe we will have to help Havana. We have to see what happens. We depend a lot on plantains, yet the hurricane season is coming, not only rain but also hurricanes, and that is dangerous for the plantains.

[Diaz] I asked you more than two questions.

[Castro] Keep going, keep going.

[Diaz] I wanted to comment on something to you. A concern exists among miscellaneous crops enterprise managers. Some are of the opinion that planting beans now is an extremely expensive investment.

[Castro] Well, if you knew that a few days ago...[pauses] What day did we hold the meeting?

[Unidentified speaker] Wednesday.

[Castro] Last Wednesday. What was the date?

[Unidentified speaker] 23, 22 April.

[Castro] On 22 April we had a meeting. We were making a few adjustments in the crops we considered could take too much work force. We made some adjustments and rationalized things. We gave priority to yuca, boniato, plantains, corn, and cucumbers. We reduced the amount of beans to be planted, and we decided....[rephrases] We are studying where they are growing, where they are on the ground, where they are up on stakes. They are in better condition both on the ground and on stakes, for planting. But an adjustment was made in the plans for cucumber and eggplant, also. Because eggplant must be planted earlier. There were some problems with the seedlings. There was also an adjustment in the plan for garlic.

It must also be said that the work force has been rationalized, seeing where the major force must be concentrated in these days, precisely because although we have the camps and all the mobilized workers, there are many things to be done. There is also the corn, among the crops that must be taken care of in these days. We must prepare the soil and plant the corn, in addition to boniato, yuca, plantains, and cucumbers. So there were adjustments in these plans, on 23 April at a meeting we had with all the miscellaneous crops enterprises.

[Diaz] Do you have a special message for the workers before 1 May, Commander?

[Castro] Well, a special message would be to ask them to continue working as they have done up to now, and ask them to win the battle of spring planting to ensure the

tubers, vegetables, and food for the off months, and congratulate them especially for 1 May.

[Diaz] Thank you.

Research Center Issues Report on Economy

PA2404151492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0632 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Havana, 23 Apr (EFE)—The economic recession worsened in 1991, and the 1992-93 period is expected to be very difficult for the Cuban economy, according to a study by the island's World Economy Research Center [Centro de Investigaciones de la Economia Mundial —CIEM].

The article, entitled "The Cuban Economy in the Face of the Changing International Situation: Challenges and Solutions," was published in two installments in the latest issues of the Information Bulletin on the Cuban Economy, the CIEM's monthly publication.

The author of the study, CIEM Deputy Director Jose Luis Rodriguez, reported that the scope and severity of the economic crisis will depend on the impact of the U.S. embargo against the country, the economic situation of the former USSR, and Cuba's capacity to increase its foreign exchange revenues.

Rodriguez indicated the short-term foreign factors are not favorable and highlighted the measures adopted by the U.S. Government to tighten the embargo, the capitalist recession, and the economic plans for the defunct USSR.

According to the Cuban economist, the shortage of resources "will not ease and the domestic financial balance and economic efficiency will not improve substantially without an increase in the flow of capital or resources from abroad."

As for trade with Russia, the report said exchange for 1992 has begun through an agreement that establishes the delivery of 500,000 tons of Cuban sugar in exchange for 900,000 tons of oil.

The agreements signed with the Republics of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Byelarus, Lithuania, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Latvia are also mentioned.

Despite the enormous existing economic difficulties in the former USSR republics, economic agreements have been signed that must serve as the framework for subsequent trade exchange agreements with enterprises and other economic organizations, the study reported.

The study highlighted that Cuban trade with China, which totaled 426 million pesos (at par with the dollar at the official exchange rate), turned Beijing into Cuba's second largest trade partner.

Exchange with Latin America rose to $800 million in 1992. In addition, the report referred to trade with Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, and Venezuela in the past few years.

In his conclusions, Rodriguez stated the negative impact of extreme foreign factors will only be partially offset by existing development programs, mainly because they have to undergo a growth phase.

On the matter of the ability to provide solutions for the deteriorated economy, Rodriguez indicated the strategic policies designed to cope with the current adverse situation are the most effective to ensure development.

SUPV Exercise Completed in Sancti Spiritus

FL2704154292 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Report by Sancti Spiritus correspondent Rafael Daniel]

[Text] The United Vigilance and Protection System [SUPV] exercise called Saneamiento I has been carried out in Sancti Spiritus with very satisfactory results. Among the fundamental objectives of this exercise are to control and prosecute those who violate the identity card and population registration system, as well as to intensify the work of locating and capturing wanted criminals. Jorge Valdes Rodriguez, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Sancti Spiritus Province, spoke of the need to become even more effective in eliminating the causes and conditions that make crimes possible.

During this exercise, which included real operations, Operation Via El Autopista [Via the Expressway] was carried out, during which people were caught moving illegal merchandise with the objective of selling it at high prices on the black, or underground, market, taking advantage of the fact that such merchandise is in high demand because of the fact that we are in a special period.

Olimpio Reyna Guardarrama, Sancti Spiritus Interior Ministry delegate, told the provincial committee of the SUPV that to date this year crime-solving has improved by 8 percent in this province, and operations are 80 percent effective, as compared to 74 percent during the same period the preceding year.

Raul Castro Ends Visit to Granma Province

FL2704205392 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] A Cuban Communist Party Politburo delegation headed by Army General Raul Castro has ended a work visit to Granma Province. Here is Jorge Luis Batista with a report.

[Batista] In his preliminary message, the Revolutionary Armed Forces minister highlighted the strong political and moral condition of Granma Province's population. He pointed out that the province is deeply involved in the tasks of the special period and added that it is necessary to work with thoroughness to solve those subjective problems that depend on the actions of men.

The need to apply the cadres policy more thoroughly, to perfect the party's methods and workstyle, exploit to the

maximum Granma province's agricultural potential, and increase the application of science and technology were analyzed, as were the small farmers' contributions to the collection system.

During this visit to Granma Province, the Armed Forces minister pointed out that action of the masses in the struggle against crime is now taken via the United Vigilance and Protection System. Raul and those accompanying him were extremely pleased with Manzanillo's results in the building of the public tunnels, which place that municipality in the nation's vanguard in that area. The construction of these tunnels was accomplished through the contribution of millions of hours of voluntary labor.

[Begin Castro recording] That represents, first of all, a gigantic, significant, important piece of political work, accomplished with the masses by the party. It means [words indistinct] and to the masses the solution to many of these problems—problems of defense, production, and everything. [end recording]

Ross Leal Claims Growing Solidarity With Cuba

FL2704205292 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Revolution Square was very festive Sunday morning during a general rehearsal for the 1 May parade. I know it will be an unforgettable event for our workers and the population in general, as well as for the guests from many countries who are going to be here in Cuba to show, in person, their solidarity with the revolution and its followers. Pedro Ross Leal, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba and secretary general of the CTC [Cuban Workers Federation] spoke to us of the solidarity support we are receiving.

[Begin Ross recording] Solidarity with Cuba is steadily growing. We are constantly receiving manifestations of this solidarity through communiques, invitations to events, from groups that collect aid for the people of Cuba, demonstrations that are held, and so forth—solidarity events such as these occur everytime there is an aggression such as the statement made by President Bush [words indistinct] the embargo against Cuba, forbidding entry to U.S. ports by ships that have been to Cuban ports. [end recording]

The words of Pedro Ross and the proximity of Revolution Square to the huge statue of Jose Marti made me think of how Marti used to say that Cuba does not go around the world importuning people. It goes as a sister nation, and takes action with a sister's authority. Having saved itself, it saves others. Our America will not fail Cuba because Cuba will not fail America.

On the first [of May], you, and we, shall be in the front ranks. This is Noticiero Nacional de Radio.

Ramon Fernandez To Receive Pan-American Award

FL2704222692 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1958 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, tomorrow will receive the highest award in Pan-American sports during the first Inter-Continental Olympic Congress taking place in Acapulco, Mexico. Mario Vasquez Rana, president of the Pan-American Sports Organization, pointed out that the gold pin will be presented to Fernandez in recognition of his efforts on behalf of sports in the region, primarily as head of the organizing committee of the Havana-91 Pan-American Games. The Mexican official said that everyone is aware of Fernandez's work and that this award will be the best way of expressing their recognition. Fernandez is a very hard-working man, is intelligent, loves sports, and is fully committed to his work.

Vasquez Rana added that this award is very selective and that fewer than 10 people in the world have received it, among them Pope John Paul II and King Juan Carlos of Spain.

Guira de Melena Reportedly 'Potato Capital'

FL2404182592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The results of this year's harvest indicate that Guira de Melena could be the potato capital. Reporter Juan Carlos Roque Garcia went to that municipality in Havana Province to gather this information.

[Begin recording] [Roque] Manuel Cabanes, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in that municipality, has the following evaluation of the results.

[Cabanes] Everything has been very positive. I believe, and the evaluation the party and organizations in this municipality have made is that never before has such a great effort been made so far. Right now we are practically finished, with 740,000 quintals of potatoes harvested from only 108 caballerias, for an average on the municipal level of 6,800 quintals per caballeria. Last year, approximately 28 caballerias more were planted, but 200,000 fewer quintals were produced. So with fewer caballerias, we have produced much more.

[Roque] Could you give us some details about your most recent meeting with the commander in chief at the Palace of the Revolution?

[Cabanes] He has been able to evaluate this, having seen it on his continuous visits, not only to this municipality, but to all the municipalities in the province. What he did yesterday was to recognize us for the work we have done. He also encouraged us not to rest, but to continue with planting. Because of the harvest, which has been lengthened, we have had to delay the planting campaign. He called on us there, and we all came out convinced—although we had gone there convinced—that as soon as the harvest was finished, we had to continue to plant

because we cannot feel satisfied with this amount of potatoes; we must plant boniato, yuca, corn, and cucumbers. We must continue giving the same attention to the bananas to ensure—this is our view—at least three or four types of vegetables at all times for the populace. [end recording]

Pinar Completes High-Yield Potato Harvest

FL2404112992 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The potato harvest has been completed in Pinar del Rio Province with high yields. Among the factors that influenced the success of this season were the high productivity of the men and women who had been mobilized for this task, the strictness with which scientific and technological achievements were applied, and the good weather.

This year, about 138,000 quintals of potatoes were harvested in Pinar del Rio. Of that, 2,000 quintals were reserved for seed, and a good part of the rest are being stored at the cold storage centers for distribution to the public during months in which agricultural products are scarce.

During the recently completed potato harvest, the best results in the province were obtained by the Capitan Tomas Enterprise in Consolacion del Sur, which obtained yields higher than 4,000 quintals per caballeria.

Production of Higher Quality Sugar Achieved

FL2404112592 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1940 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The Espana Republicana Agroindustrial Sugar Complex, one of the largest in Matanzas, is producing a class-B refined sugar—known as national—of outstanding quality. At first glance, there is no difference at all between this product and the sugar traditionally refined for export, yet it looks better and is of a better quality than the direct white sugar previously produced for domestic consumption.

No investments were required to produce the national white sugar, and its economic advantages include conservation of imported materials and an increase in factory efficiency because it increases the extraction of sucrose while reducing consumption of energy and labor. Engineers Nelson Gracia and Pedro Landa explained that the national refined sugar requires raw sugar of outstanding quality and maximum operational efficiency. Those requirements are being met at the Matanzas sugar mill.

Scientific Achievements Applied to Agriculture

FL2404112292 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1939 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The agricultural production cooperatives of Havana Province are implementing at full speed a number of scientific achievements aimed at increasing yields, substituting for imports, and improving economic efficiency. The results being applied include new planting frames for the potato and garlic crops, which make it possible to increase the number of plants per unit of area and noticeably increase yields.

This scientific development is being tried at the Cuban-Bulgarian Agricultural Production Cooperative in Guines, the first one in Cuba to harvest 200,000 quintals of tubers and vegetables this year. Also, at the Aniseto Perez and the Cuban-Nordic Countries Friendship Cooperatives of Guira de Melena, 10 caballerias of bananas are being readied, while three centers making products for the biological control of pests and diseases are in operation in Havana Province.

Malmierca, UNESCO Representative Plant Tree

FL2804020392 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] The UNESCO Commission of Cuba and Havana's metropolitan park have organized a tree planting ceremony as part of Promise for the Earth Day. Foreign Relations Minister Isidoro Malmierca and Hernan Crespo, the UNESCO Representative in Cuba, participated in the event.

Ricardo Verdura, the director of the metropolitan park, said that the park could play an important part in the ecological life of the city and that efforts are already being conducted to completely restore it. This is why the UNESCO commission of Cuba selected the park to conduct a tree planting ceremony in which 33 representatives from the diplomatic corps accredited in Cuba and several international organizations planted 33 seedlings as a symbolic contribution during the UNESCO-sponsored Promise for the Earth Day. Pioneers from the Republic of Peru School, representing all Cuban children, also participated in the event. A white dove was released carrying a message from all Cuban children to the earth summit. [Passage omitted]

UNDP Joint Project for Shrimp Farming Signed

FL2404113292 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Shrimp farming, an important source of hard currency for this country, will be increased under a joint project signed today with the UN Development Program [UNDP]. The project, a continuation of the one established in 1986, was signed by Mr. (Joaquin Bon Brownmull), the UNDP representative resident in Cuba, and Raul Taladrid, the vice president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation. It anticipates tripling the production plan for farmed shrimp by 1995 to 5,200 tons, and raising exports to $30 million, which will make it possible for the country to purchase products needed by the populace.

The joint program includes the development of a pilot center in Santa Cruz del Sur, Camaguey Province, with

the most modern technology. It will also benefit the Ministry of the Fishing Industry facilities devoted to that export product.

Mr. (Brownmull) also said that five new cooperation projects will soon be approved in various fields, such as the pharmaceutical industry, mining, and the food program. He stressed that Cuba is the most advanced country in approving and carrying out joint programs with the UNDP.

Four Plants Ready For Hydrocarbon Fuel Process

FL2704192092 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] A total of 14 enterprises in Matanzas Province use national petroleum, including a small amount of higher quality, lighter oil that is also extracted in the province. Leonardo Diaz, specialist from the Energy Commission in Matanzas, told Radio Progreso that four large enterprises are currently preparing to burn hydrocarbons, among them the Rayonitro plant and the pasteurization plant of Matanzas.

Forecasts for 1992 indicate the possibility of incorporating fuel emulsions at all the sites considered to be large energy consumers. To reach this goal, emulsion devices are being installed as quickly as possible at locations that include the largest in the province, the Antonio Guiteras Electric Plant, which requires 70 tons per hour for operation.

Currently, the residents of Matanzas have a fuel emulsion plant that belongs to the Sugar Ministry and can treat up to 110 tons a day, as well as other small installations at construction and basic industry sites.

Ciego de Avila Hydroelectric Plant Construction

FL2404134592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] A small hydroelectric power plant capable of providing energy to approximately 3,000 homes is currently being built downstream from the Canada Blanca Dam in Florencia Municipality, Ciego de Avila Province. A report from our colleague Ortelio Gonzalez adds that the plant, the first of its kind in Ciego de Avila Province, will have Cuban- and Czech-made components and will be capable of generating approximately 1,100 kw. Electric enterprise specialists have also stated that most of the Cuban-made components for this first small hydroelectric plant will be made at the Villa Clara mechanical plant and the Indalecio Montejo factory here in Ciego de Avila.

Also in connection with electricity, I can report that electric sector workers have just brought electricity, this important form of energy, to 30 homes in the town of Majagua, and to another 150 in the La Llama district of the city of Ciego de Avila.

On another subject, a rare mineral has just been discovered in the province. The use of that mineral in mortar brings about savings in cement that are unprecedented in Cuba. No other additive has ever brought about such a savings in cement.

Testing of Recombinant Streptokinase 'Going Well'

FL2404180092 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Clinical testing of Cuban-made recombinant streptokinase in Villa Clara is going very well, in the opinion of Professor Alberto Toruncha, head of the evaluation program for this medicine which is aimed at destroying the blood clot that causes acute heart attacks.

[Begin Toruncha recording] The product is still being evaluated, but up to now it seems to have the same qualities as the traditional product, which is already well-known. It is also known that streptokinase, the traditional kind, has been proven to increase the survival rate of patients who have had a heart attack, improve ventricular function, and decrease the scope of the attack. So streptokinase is a product, I repeat, that has great advantages for patients who have suffered an acute heart attack. [end recording]

Without doubt, in addition to the human factor, this achievement by Cuban scientists will make it possible for the country to save hard currency, since up to now this medicine has been produced by developed countries at a cost of about $200 per dose.

Minsap Predicts Leprosy Elimination in 3 Years

FL2404145192 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Considering the program established for the control of leprosy in our country, the Ministry of Public Health [Minsap] predicts that within a period of three years, leprosy could be eliminated as a health problem in Cuba. Its current rate of occurrence is 2.5 of every 10,000 inhabitants. According to the latest statistics from the WHO, Cuba is the only country in Latin America that keeps almost 100 percent of its lepers on a multi-drug treatment advocated by that international organization. Ninety-five percent of the 2,670 people with Hansen's disease—named after its discoverer—receive the multi-drug treatment. The remaining 5 percent cannot be treated that way due to kidney problems and other conditions that are incompatible with the medications, which are best suited for treating leprosy.

The Minsap has a guaranteed supply of the medications needed to carry out this important health program. It has stated that family doctors and blood tests with the SUMA [Ultra Micro Analytic System] equipment will allow Cuba to interdict the transmission of leprosy by the beginning of the next century. Today, leprosy is a

curable disease if it is diagnosed at an early stage. A leper receiving proper treatment does not represent a threat to his family or community.

Construction of Health Facilities Resumed

FL2304210192 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1948 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] In Santiago de Cuba, the Moncada Heroes Construction Contingent has resumed the construction of the biological sector and pharmaceutical industry facilities while simultaneously completing the general hospital. Among the prioritized projects resumed, there is the monoclonal antibody facility which is 50 percent completed, the toxicology facility, and the factory for the production of pills, which should be completed next year.

The Moncada Heroes Contingent has more than 600 workers, a portion of whom are working in the sugarcane harvest in a section of the Los Reynaldo Agroindustrial Complex in Songo-La Maya Municipality. At the beginning of the year, due to a shortage of fuel, cement, and other resources, the contingent worked for two months in food program tasks. The contingent also tends two self- sufficiency vegetable and livestock farms.

Government Issues Hospital Radiation License

FL2804022092 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Dr. Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, executive secretary of the Secretariat for Nuclear Affairs of Cuba, has issued a license to work with radiation to the Nuclear Medicine Department of the Conrado Benitez Cancer Treatment Hospital of Santiago de Cuba

The project, which was expanded and remodeled by construction workers of the Public Health Ministry in the region, now has a gamma ray chamber. This is the third diagnosis equipment of its kind installed in Cuba, which allows for static and scanned analyses of numerous ailments including: cardiovascular, psychiatric, and non-tumoral digestive problems in children and adults of the eastern region of the country.

Politburo members Esteban Lazo, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in the province, and Maria de los Angeles Garcia presided the activity, together with Diaz-Balart.

'South Levee' Construction Completed in Havana

FL2704015892 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] [Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The 90-km-long South Levee begins near Alquizar and ends near Batabano. It is the first time that a project of such complexity has been built in Cuba. This project guarantees 300 million cubic meters of water for the development of the food program of Havana Province. The South Levee makes it possible to stabilize intensive irrigation for the crops, prevents soil salinity, and will help restore the region's flora and fauna. The productivity reached in the potato harvest is an eloquent example of the advantages attained from this project.

Sixty members of the Cesar Escalante Contingent worked on this project for four years. They accumulated 53,000 hours of volunteer work and have maintained their equipment in good condition to now begin the construction of the (Ubea) channel in San Antonio de los Banos

Homero [Construction Minister Homero Crabb, identified by caption], how has it been possible to complete this dam and other projects over the last year and a half despite the special period?

[Homero] Well, I would say that the main reason is the commitment of our government, our party, and the workers in general to not halt development. Numerous initiatives have been developed. All work centers have done a truly commendable job. Every technique that we know is being implemented to take maximum advantage of our fuel, equipment, tires. As you can see, even today, we are already closing the South Levee. [end recording]

Union Representatives Arrive for May Day

FL2704133492 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Representatives of union organizations from several countries have arrived in Cuba over the last few hours. They will be participating in the 1 May festivities.

Among this first group of the more than 260 unionists from close to 30 countries who will march in a parade alongside the Cuban people on International Workers Day are delegations from Argentina's Agustin Tosco National Coordinating Board, Brazil's General Federation of Workers, Uruguay's unions, and more than 15 workers organizations from the United States.

Delegations from other countries will continue to arrive over the next few days. Also expected is Ibrahim Zacharia, president of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Health Workers Serve Nicaraguan Volcano Victims

FL2504160792 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] On 27 April, a Cuban medical brigade will travel to Nicaragua to provide medical assistance for two months in areas affected by the eruption of the Cerro Negro volcano, which resulted in a large number of injuries. The mission is composed of 14 health workers who will also cooperate in cholera control. Until last week, Nicaraguan authorities had reported 26 cases of cholera. There are currently 84 Cuban health workers providing services to Nicaragua.

School Welcomes PRC Teaching Supplies Donation

FL2804010792 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The students of the People's Republic of China Elementary School received a donation sent by [words indistinct] of the National Assembly of the PRC. Teaching supplies, binders, and backpacks for the students are part of the gift presented by the Chinese ambassador to Cuba, Mr. Chen Jiuchang.

Brigadier General Moises Sio Wong—president of the Cuban-Chinese Friendship Association who also attended the event—thanked the Chinese people on behalf of every student and of Cuba for this sign of friendship toward the Cuban people and urged all students to do better in school and in their future lives.

Mr. Chen stated that this donation was a sign of friendship between both countries. The children entertained the visitors with a small cultural activity during which they demonstrated various artistic talents.

Vietnamese Leader Cites Friendship 'Peak Period'

FL2704211792 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1957 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Leaders of the Cuban and Vietnamese Communist Parties agreed that relations between Cuba and Vietnam are experiencing a peak period, based on a long friendship and similar principles in defending socialism. Hoang Ha, secretary of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party, stated that nothing has changed. On the contrary, today more than ever, we have the duty to strengthen ties on party and popular levels, based on a rich tradition of brotherhood.

Fernando Ramirez—a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and head of the Cuban delegation to Vietnam—said he was impressed by the feelings of solidarity of the Vietnamese people toward Cuba. Hoang Ha added that he feels optimistic, because he believes that Vietnam, as well as Cuba, will emerge victorious in defending their ideas, independence, and sovereignty, despite provocative efforts by the United States and the collapse of the socialist bloc.

Argentine Groups Arrive, Donate Medicine

FL2704011292 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Excerpts] The members of the Flight of Solidarity With Cuba and the Committees for the Defense of the Cuban Revolution—two groups from Argentina—have arrived in Cuba. Approximately 50 Argentine personalities representing the most diverse sectors are part of the Flight of Solidarity traveling to Cuba in coordination with the Cuban Friendship with the Peoples' Institute and the Argentine-Cuban Friendship House. During their first meeting with the Cuban press, we were told of the medicine donated by them to several Cuban health organizations and several of the visitors stated their reasons for the trip. [passage omitted]

The members of the Argentine Committees for the Defense of the Cuban Revolution will also conduct an extensive program of activities which will increase their knowledge of the present Cuban reality. Ismael Rosario, who leads the group, also made a comment for this newscast.

[Begin Rosario recording] This is the first time that a delegation from Argentina has come to conduct an activity of solidarity with the Cuban revolution. The trip was organized by the Argentine Committees for the Defense of the Cuban Revolution because it is our belief that this is an instrument for the defense of socialism in the world. [end recording]

Cooperation Accords Signed With Ecuador

FL2404022192 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The second meeting of the joint intergovernmental Cuban- Ecuadoran Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation concluded in Havana with the signing of a protocol. Mario Aleman Ecuadoran Vice Foreign Minister Mario Aleman, together with Carlos Chain, interim director of the General Customs Office of the Republic of Cuba, signed a memorandum of understanding on several customs issues. Later on, the meeting concluded with the signing of the final protocol by Manuel Gutierrez, acting minister president of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation. The document summarizes the diverse technical and scientific cooperation accords reached between the two countries and opens the way for the possibility of an imminent visit by Ecuadoran businessmen in order to establish joint productions and other joint forms of managerial work with Cuba .

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Vice Foreign Minister, do you believe that the coming change of government in Ecuador could result in the failure or be detrimental to the cooperation accords reached?

[Aleman] I do not believe so, because there is a series of acquired commitments still pending, which will have to be fulfilled throughout this and the next Ecuadoran Government to be elected on 5 July in the second round of elections and that will take office 10 August. I just said that a government always has to try to reflect the feelings and interests of its people. In that sense, the Ecuadoran and Cuban peoples have always been tied by a close friendship and I am sure that the next Ecuadoran Government will continue along the same route. [end recording]

Joint Antidrug Commission Formed With Venezuela

FL2404134492 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The Venezuelan and Cuban Governments have formed a joint commission to develop a cooperation

program to fight trafficking in illicit drugs and psychotropic substances. The commission was formed in Havana on 23 April. The relevant document was signed by Enrique Rivas Gomez, Venezuelan minister of state and president of the national commission on the improper use of drugs, and Cuban Justice Minister Carlos Amat.

DPRK Armed Forces Anniversary Observed

FL2504014992 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] A few hours ago, the 60th anniversary of the creation of the People's Army of the DPRK was commemorated at the Maximo Gomez Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] Academy.

Brigadier General Leonardo Andollo Valdes, a member of the General Staff of the FAR Ministry, speaking on behalf of Cuba, pointed out the example that the people of the DPRK provide to the world with their spirit of commitment in the building of the socialist society and emphasized the efforts of the Armed Forces of the DPRK to modernize its equipment and maintain combat readiness to maintain the peace in this embargoed country.

Colonel Kim Hui-bek, the DPRK's air and naval attache in Cuba, said the following during his speech:

[Begin Hui-bek recording] The officers and soldiers of the People's Army are confronted today with a more important and urgent task: to thwart the plots of the U.S. imperialists and their South Korean puppets who want to provoke another war and perpetuate the division of Korea; and the task of giving a reunited nation to the new generation. [end recording]

Later on, the military attache said the following in relation to the role of our countries given the current world situation.

[Begin Hui-bek recording] Our two peoples and the Armed Forces of the DPRK and Cuba will always be in the same trench against a common enemy and will forever march side by side toward the complete victory of socialism. [end recording]

The ceremony was headed by Comrade Pak Sung-huk, extraordinary and plenipotentiary DPRK ambassador to Cuba, and Division General Sergio del Valle Jimenez. The ceremony was also attended by other military attaches and diplomatic personnel accredited in Cuba.

Haiti

Opposition Urges Week of General Mobilization

FL2704182692 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] About 10 neighborhood organizations and political groups in the capital have declared the week of 26 April to 1 May as a week of general mobilization, with the hope of obtaining the resignation of the provisional government.

The National Front for Change and Democracy is calling for a drum concert on 29 April, the date on which the tripartite discussions will start between the executive, assembly, and the Army at the Villa D'Acceuil.

The Movement for the Organization of the Country is advocating the ratification of the Washington agreement and is accusing the government of seeking to hinder the document's ratification.

St. Lucia

Prime Minister Compton, UWP Win 3d Term

FL2804110192 Bridgetown CANA in English 0402 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, April 28, CANA—St. Lucia Prime Minister John Compton, whose United Workers Party (UWP) won a third consecutive five-year term in office in Monday's general elections, has again indicated that this will be his last poll. Compton, who will be 66 on May 1, said it was not a question of whether he would bow out, but when.

"... Some new people have come into the system and I think there you will see the leadership emerging during the course of this term," he remarked.

The preliminary count gave Compton 11 seats—one more than in the previous Parliament, with the remaining six going to the St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP), led by controversial businessman Julian Hunte. The SLP scored at least two major upsets, defeating incumbents, Foreign Minister Neville Cenac and Agriculture Minister Ferdinand Henry.

The UWP leader said that the victory was important for St. Lucia's plans to proceed towards a political union with the three other Windward Islands—Grenada, St. Vincent, and Dominica.

"I think it has been very gratifying.... I am sure we are going to get a majority when the referendum (on unity) is called....

"I think the rest of the other Windward Islands were waiting for us to take this one step further, and the next step will be for the referendum and while we have this bouyancy of the acceptance by the electorate, I think we should take it very soon."

Compton complained of the bitterness of the campaign. He said the "unnecessarily bitter campaign" had included "mud-slinging unprecedented" in St. Lucia's history. He said St. Lucians would have to try to "correct this sort of drift towards smearing." If they did not, a lot of good people would avoid going into politics, Compton said.

During the campaign, Compton had faced charges of an affair with an 18 year-old student. He brushed them aside as part of an opposition campaign to embarrass him.

More on Compton Win

FL2804120592 Bridgetown CANA in English 0421 GMT 28 Apr 92

[By Peter Richards]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, April 28, CANA—Jubillant supporters of Prime Minister John Compton's ruling United Workers Party (UWP) took to the streets here on Monday night to celebrate their party's victory in general elections. Preliminary results indicated that the UWP had won 11 of the 17 seats at stake in the fifth general election since the island attained its political independence from Britain in 1979.

The main opposition St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) copped six seats, while the lone candidate of the small Progressive Labour Party (PLP) Jon Odlum lost his EC 250 dollars (1 EC dollar = 37 U.S. cents) deposit as a result of his poor showing.

UWP supporters jammed the streets in the capital, Castries, holding up flames, the symbol of the party, which has ruled St. Lucia from 1964, except for the period 1979-82. Motorists honked their horns, while others moved into the William Peter Boulevard, the traditional Castries meeting place of the UWP. Compton declared himself "very pleased with the results" despite having lost two of his government ministers.

"... Some new people have come into the system and I think there you will see the leadership emerging during the course of this term," he added.

Agriculture Minister Ferdinand Henry was defeated by farmer Anthony Torrence in the Dennery North constituency, while Foreign Affairs Minister Neville Cenac was soundly beaten by former magistrate Velon John. Both John and Cenac had contested the 1987 elections on behalf of the SLP. Cenac later crossed the floor to improve the UWP's one seat majority of 1987. The SLP leader has so [far] not commented on the election result.

A former minister of agriculture, Ira d'Auvergne was able to recapture the Anse-la Raye, Canaries constituency for the UWP after losing it to educator George Regis by a mere six votes in 1987. Two newcomers both scored wins in their first attempts: Rufus Bousquet, the son of a former UWP government minister, contesting the Choiseul constituency, defeated lawyer Evans Calderon, whose son, Lawson also suffered defeat at the hands of incumbent government minister Desmond Brathwaite in Castries South. That constituency was the only three-cornered fight in the election. The other newcomer was environmentalist Edward Innocent, who defeated another SLP lawyer, Joseph Badain Allain.

Electoral officials said that an official count will be made on Tuesday and that the official results should be known by about 10 AM. Charles Joseph, the special assistant to the chief electoral officer, said on state-radio that "based on the returns, it would seem to indicate that it is very likely that the count would remain."

El Salvador

END Commander Discusses Overflights

PA2804054392 San Salvador Radio Venceremos in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Interview with Commander Silvio de Jesus Argueta of the National Army for Democracy, END, by unidentified reporter at the END Command Post of the 3d Military Region; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Commander Silvio Argueta, on the morning of 26 April [as heard] A-37 planes overflew your camps two times and we also learned about the overflight of an E-2 small military plane in Morazan. What can you tell us about this?

[Argueta] That is true. At 0900 today A-37 planes overflew National Army for Democracy [END] camps or military bases here in northern Morazan. That was the first overflight. At 1145 two A-37 planes overflew the same areas. They came from east and headed west. We do not know whether they were Salvadoran or Honduran planes. At any rate, even if they are Salvadoran planes this constitutes a violation of the agreements signed in Chapultepec. If they were Honduran planes this would also be a violation of national sovereignty. Thus, we believe it is important to denounce this before our country and the international community.

As for the overflight of a small E-2 military plane, it overflew our positions here in northern Morazan beginning at 1350 and ending at 1515. This small plane intentionally overflew our positions. Our combatants opened machine gun and rifle fire at this plane. In the 3d region, all END forces have instructions to fire when faced with bombing threats from military planes. On this occasion our combatants fulfilled this order. They fired at these planes that were intentionally overflying our positions.

[Reporter] Commander [words indistinct] here in Morazan and what has been the reaction of ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador] members, of those who are in this department?

[Argueta] I believe that on other occasions we have reported incidents to them. They told us they are observers and that their sole role is to be observers. They added that they sometimes can control the overflights, but that at other times they cannot. We have in the past (?submitted) communiques but the situation has not changed, that is, there have been no signs of change. We have given clear and precise instructions on this occasion to our combatants and they just followed instructions.

Up to now we have not informed the observers about shootings, but I think they must know by now. In addition, they have witnessed the violations of the airspace and, of course, violations of the agreements.

[Reporter] This seems to be the most serious military incident to take place since the agreements were signed. There have been overflights lasting over an hour and there have also been shootings. What repercussions could these incidents have on the process and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] commitment to demobilize 20 percent of its troops as of 1 May?

[Argueta] Overflights by reconnaissance planes and bombers have been going on for quite some time, but this is the first time they have fired. It is possible this will not have an important repercussion on the agreements. Our fighters have precise orders and they are not attacking anyone, they are not engaged in offensive actions. They are simply acting to defend their positions. I do not think anyone will allow themselves to be killed without first resorting to the means available. As for the 20 percent, I think the FMLN and the END have been clear. They have said there will not be a demobilization as long as the other party does not comply with the overall agreements. I want to mention something that is very specific. When we signed the agreements, we made something clear: Our fighters, as well as the Army of the [word indistinct] had to be compensated for the time they have been here. Up to now, there is no sign the government is making an effort to compensate them for the many years of battle in which our fighters participated. We must bear in mind that both the Armed Forces and the END have been important elements that have contributed to the democratic changes in this country, for peace in this country, and [words indistinct].

[Reporter] You have mentioned a very important point, the compensation of fighters. On the morning of 28 April, President Alfredo Cristiani talked about this during a news conference. He said there are serious problems on the issue of compensating soldiers, members of the National Guard, as well as members of the Treasury Police. A few days ago, there were some 700 members of the National Guard at the Legislative Assembly demanding compensation, but Cristiani said there was no money. He said there were only promises made by governments, and that it was difficult to satisfy the demands of both soldiers and policemen, not to mention END fighters. What do you think about this?

[Argueta] First, I believe these are words....[pauses] I believe it is a matter of good will. I could also ask: Why did the Americans give so much aid for war, weapons, and ammunition to destroy our country and to murder the people? Why do they not give the money to compensate the men who waged a war for a cause?

In addition, I think the North Americans [words indistinct]. As the war is over, we are not afraid of the large amounts of money given to the Armed Forces, which could now be used to compensate soldiers and National Guard and END members. I think that, in the case of the National Guard and the soldiers, the idea is not to create a type of [words indistinct] but something similar to what happens when a horse finishes its work and now it has to be dumped. I think this is the reality and the truth. END is not willing to lend itself to this or let our people be abandoned and at the mercy of disgrace and calamity.

[Reporter] The FMLN [words indistinct] has been reported to fire missiles at planes overflying the territory.

[Argueta] It is true we presented missiles prior to the last operations conducted in the (?country's north). To tell you the truth, neither the Army nor the government have our type of weapons. I think we all must speak the truth. They do not like it because we forced them to negotiate, because we attained an important victory with the armament we presented to the nation and the United Nations. There are no more weapons' inventories, no more weapons to show. We gave our weapons' inventory to ONUSAL. Those are the weapons we have, the weapons we are going to destroy now that the war is over. Referring to the missiles in particular, the Army has had false ideas about us. We turned 60-mm and home-made mortars into missile-firing weapons. These missiles have shot down helicopters and planes. They do not believe this. This cannot penetrate their minds because their minds are set on conventional arms used by a regular Army. We are a guerrilla army and turn rocks into missiles.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Argueta] Sure, Guillermo, we fire them.

Honduras

Foreign Minister Recognizes Fujimori Government

PA2804003292 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Apr 92 p 2

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The Honduran Government officially recognizes Alberto Fujimori as the chief of the Peruvian state. On 5 April, Fujimori suspended the National Congress and dissolved the judicial branch, actions that were viewed as a "self-inflicted coup."

Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata made this announcement to reporters following a ceremony to swear in Alvaro Antonio Salgado, the new Honduran ambassador to Nicaragua.

"Naturally, Mr. Fujimori is the president elected by the people and the Latin American countries continue to recognize him as such. He dissolved the legislative assembly and the judicial branch and these are grave incidents. However, we hope and trust that the OAS mission will help promote a dialogue among all political forces," he said.

Carias stated: At the Honduran level, we recognize the president who was in power prior to the 5 April incident, that is Mr. Fujimori, and we maintain our ambassador in Peru. Carias stressed that he understands that the position of most Latin American countries is to reassess the situation after the OAS completes its mission.

The foreign minister added that Honduras has not considered recognizing the government headed by Maximo San Roman who was sworn in by the Congress.

Callejas Speaks at EC Agreement Ceremony

PA2704185092 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Speech by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas at a ceremony to sign a $13.6 million grant agreement between the EC and the Honduran Government at the Presidential Palace Conference Room in Tegucigalpa—live]

[Text] Mr. Abel Matutes, dear friend and EC commissioner for Latin America; Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata; Dr. Fernando Carbeza, EC ambassador for Central America; members of the diplomatic corps; ambassadors of the EC member countries; cabinet members; Dr. Jose Ignacio [word indistinct]; members of Dr. Matutes' staff; representatives of international organizations; gentlemen of the Honduran Social Investment Fund [FHIS]; representatives of private development organizations; news media representatives; special guests; ladies and gentlemen:

This ceremony is of the utmost importance for my government and country, as it reflects an EC effort to continue contributing to a very basic action, helping those hurt the most by poverty. Honduras is a country that for many years has been facing serious and critical problems regarding the living standard of its residents. This situation stemmed from our failure to recognize that the only way to fight poverty is through economic growth. If there is no economic growth we can temporarily reduce or mitigate poverty in some sectors. In the medium- and long-term, however, poverty grows. That is why we faced a far-reaching program of structural adjustment with commitment, decision, and the enormous backing of friendly countries and international organizations. Today we are seeing its positive results. I cannot help mentioning on this occasion some important figures concerning what has happened. The country's fiscal deficit in the latest agreement that we will sign soon, following the IMF negotiations, will drop to a level close to 3 percent of our gross national product.

We have been fulfilling our goals in that regard. Our currency has been stable for some time now and it is priced, even in the parallel market, below 5.60 [lempiras per dollar] while the official rate is 5.40 and our flexibility margin is 5 percent.

We have been able to increase radically our capacity to absorb foreign resources, both bilateral and multilateral, and at this time the flow of international financial relations with Honduras is, at last, positive after many, many years. Since we are paying our debt, we receive more resources than we are disbursing.

We keep our country up to date on its payments with the friendly countries of the Paris Club and we have gotten countries that were not traditional creditors to Honduras, in addition to those that are, to open their doors to us.

Today the EC contributes to a very special program, the FHIS, which was created a few days after I took office as

president of the Republic and which has undoubtedly surprised us with its capacity to absorb resources and generate results that benefit the lower income sectors.

I would like to give some recognition to all those who have contributed to the FHIS and, above all, to its personnel because their efforts have resulted in an opportunity for thousands of our fellow countrymen to have a better opportunity for the future. We have also achieved this with effective community participation through the nongovernmental organizations. I hope they will feel my government's intention to continue to delegate more to them to ensure the programs' continuity in the struggle against poverty.

Under the current circumstances, this program undoubtedly gives support to thousands of small businesses and proposes a free and growing market economy. Giving them credit, proper conditions, and training, is giving them an opportunity and a future they did not have before.

Those of us who have had the experience of some of these programs, such as the communal banks, clearly know that their benefits have an important impact on income, and that means a positive shift in their standard of living. The best example of the FHIS's work is its understanding of those who received credit or the opportunity to receive better training. One can see a new dynamism, a different way of seeing problems: with hope. Of course, in a country like ours, hope is the most important thing, and that is what the EC now realizes. Joining expectations and economic reality will undoubtedly produce highly favorable results for the Honduran people.

In the name of the government and the people of Honduras, I would like to thank the EC, through you, for this important economic collaboration. You may be sure that the FHIS, as Mr. Alonso Valensuela said, will know how to use these funds most appropriately and effectively. [applause]

Discua Denies Buying Arms From Pinochet's Son

PY2304145692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] General Luis Alonso Discua, the Honduran Armed Forces commander, has stated that Augusto Pinochet Hiriart [son of former President Augusto Pinochet] is not negotiating the sale of weapons to Honduras as reported by a human rights organization.

Pinochet visited Honduras last week. Details of his visit have been kept secret. Discua said that the son of former Chilean president is a free citizen who can visit any country. He entered Honduras after meeting the regulations established by law.

Discua did not explain the reason for Pinochet's visit to Honduras, and denied that it was to sell weapons to the Honduran Army. He said that this report is false, adding that Honduras is not in a position to buy weapons.

Commenting on a charge made by the Honduran Committee of Relatives of Missing People on the alleged sale of weapons, Discua said that this organization only seeks to gain notoriety.

Nicaragua

FSLN Says Government Not Fulfilling Pledges

PA2704145092 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Apr 92 pp 1, 7

[Text] Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], met officially for the first time on 23 April with the FSLN departmental secretaries who were recently elected throughout the country to "examine and seek solutions" to the difficult situation that, in his opinion, the country is experiencing.

Ortega said that land occupations and protests affecting several cities in northern Nicaragua "are linked" to the economic measures adopted by the government since March 1991, which have the people "in a desperate state."

He added that the government has also failed to fulfill the agreements it signed "not only" with the disarmed recompas and recontras, but also with demobilized members of the Nicaraguan Resistance and the soldiers dismissed from the Army and former Interior Ministry during reductions in force.

The 11 departmental leaders who met with Ortega and Luis Carrion, the FSLN's vice coordinator, agreed with the Sandinist leader that the government has shown "ineptitude" in distributing lands, lots, housing, and in fulfilling other pledges it made to these sectors.

"The government does not respond until forceful action is taken," said Esteli representative Isaias Parrales, referring to the recent occupation of highways and towns in that department by the self-styled revueltos [mixed group of recontras and recompas].

"These 2,000 men are exerting pressure on the government in a civic manner," in the hope that the government will fulfill those agreements, Parrales said.

Meanwhile, Santiago Fajardo, the Sandinist secretary of Nueva Segovia, asserted that his department "is a time bomb that is about to explode," rephrasing similar warnings made by Ortega regarding the consequences of a failure to fulfill the agreements with the disarmed rebels.

"Prudencio Serrano's people (a group of revueltos) are still awaiting lands, housing construction materials, seed, and access to credit, which were promised to them," Fajardo said.

Leon representative Fanor Herrera said the conditions of social upheaval "of which I will only give waring," have been exacerbated in the region by the recent eruption of the Cerro Negro volcano, and he underscored the "fatal" consequences that could result from a failure to provide credits to the country's western region.

"It is worrisome that the government believes the problem in the western region is its approximately 500 cotton producers. The government has failed to see that behind these producers are thousands of workers who also depend on those credits."

'Revueltos' Withdraw From Esteli; Leader Talks

PA2804005092 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The armed group that had occupied Esteli and blocked traffic on the Pan American Highway have now cleared city streets and withdrawn from the highway, according to reports. Commander Bigote de Oro [Alcides Rodriguez] wanted to establish for the record that no money exchanged hands in the dialogue with the government. In a message to the community, Bigote de Oro said he was not a warmongerer, but their attitude had been fostered by mere necessity. We have here a report by Adolfo Oliva:

[Begin recording] [Oliva] The recompas and recontras, known as revueltos [mixed group], who had occupied Esteli since 21 April, cleared the main city streets, removed the barricades, and withdrew from the Pan American Highway on 26 April. This action is in compliance with part of the agreements reached with government delegate Professor Joaquin Lobo, who represents the Government Ministry, on the weekend of 25 April. In turn, the government will deliver 2,000 manzanas of land that will benefit over 600 revueltos families. The government has also purchased 30 manzanas that will be separated into lots for the relatives of the revueltos group.

During the tour made by [acting Government Minister] Alfredo Mendieta in Condega, he agreed with the revueltos to reopen the slaughterhouse that was shut down seven months ago. In addition, the government will decide on the slaughterhouse's privatization by 4 May, at the latest, as is being demanded by approximately 300 workers. On 26 April, Alfredo Mendieta went to Somoto, where he met with the revueltos who had taken over part of the Pan American Highway. Part of this Highway has already been cleared. We have statements by Commander Bigote de Oro, one of the revueltos' leaders from the First Region:

[Bigote de Oro] As a result of the meeting with the government minister, the purchase of 30 manzanas for housing was made. Meanwhile, we agreed we would clear the Highway, the city streets, and remove the barricades. In return, the riot police would be withdrawn. This has all been accomplished. Another agreement reached was the release of the persons who were detained because of the incidents that took place on 24 April. This was also accomplished. We also agreed on the immediate appointment of a commission to inspect the lands that are going to be purchased as of tomorrow.

[Oliva] Where are those lots located?

[Bigote de Oro] These lots are located behind the Jose Derecho Escobar [not further identified].

[Oliva] You said these lots have already been purchased?

[Bigote de Oro] Yes, they were already purchased, and the people are there inspecting the site.

[Oliva] Where are the 2,000 manzanas located?

[Bigote de Oro] The 2,000 manzanas are located in the Esteli municipality, around Miraflores or other areas adequate for farming activities.

[Oliva] You have already located these lands then?

[Bigote de Oro] Yes. Much of the land has already been located, and the owners are being contacted so that an agreement on the price of the land can be reached with the government.

[Oliva) Do you have the names of some of the properties?

[Bigote de Oro] I am not too familiar with the Esteli area; therefore, I cannot tell you the names of the landowners or the names of the properties. I am sure, however, that there are properties here available for purchase.

[Oliva] This morning there were still some problems. It appears there were some individuals asking for compensation. What has happened with these people? Has this situation been controlled?

[Bigote de Oro] Yes, the majority of the people have listened to reason because they have seen that the government has complied with the part of the agreements regarding land and housing. These are the commitments the government made with us. The government has not made any commitment to hand over money. We have explained this to the people, and they have understood. They are currently waiting for the process whereby they will receive their land lots and then prepare for the divisions or the delivery of the farming lands.

[Oliva] Now that you have already withdrawn from the Pan American Highway and have cleared the downtown city street in Esteli, what message do you have for the community so that the situation can return to normal?

[Bigote de Oro] We can tell the community that our demands are just and that the commitments made between us and the government are feasible. We also want the community to show their understanding when these incidents occur. We want them to support us in our demands because we are not warmongers. On the contrary, we undertake these actions because we are hungry, we have needs, and this is why we have been forced to take these actions.

[Oliva] Those were the statements by Bigote de Oro, one of the revueltos leaders who occupied Esteli. Meanwhile, the special commission that is investigating the incidents that took place on 24 April in northern Esteli went to the site on the weekend of 25 April to reconstruct the violent incidents that resulted in one dead revuelto, five

wounded, and one wounded policeman. The commission is comprised of Javier Pitarque and Sergio Marino, members of the OAS-CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification], and Salvador Velasquez, Marlo Castillo, and Napoleon Rodriguez, representing the revueltos. The government will disclose shortly the results of the investigations of those bloody incidents. [end recording]

* National Project, FSLN Support Urged

92CA0131A Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 21 Mar 92 p 4

[Commentary by Oscar Tellez]

[Text] In recent days, and by coincidence, we Sandinists that belong to two groups that reflect in different ways the concerns we all have regarding the future of our party, the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], have entered the public arena.

We the party members who, as Nicaraguans, signed the document "From Sandinism, A Proposal for a National Project" did so having in mind a document that could be presented to the country and accepted as their own by all Nicaraguans who understand that only by working together on what unites us, will we be able to define a country for the next 50 to 100, a goal never before achieved in our history.

As Sandinists, we are moved by a profound desire to have a political party that is based on principles and that is modern, tolerant, capable, deeply knowledgeable of the Nicaraguan people's aspirations, and self-critical—in short, a party capable of reentering the Nicaraguan people's awareness and of recognizing their heterogeneity, for our society is heterogeneous.

Since its electoral defeat, the FSLN, while continuing to exert a great influence as a political party within our society, has ceased charting our society's course. It is in fact Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's government that, despite its lack of cohesion and coherence, has been laying down the basic guidelines for the building of a Nicaraguan society that, even when we may disagree with that government's approach, has ceased being revolutionary, at least in the sense in which we have traditionally used this concept. What our party has been able to do has been to moderate the policies her government has tried to implement.

A Society by Synthesis

During these last two years, a society by synthesis has been evolving that combines some aspects of Sandinism with some totally new aspects.

It is naive to think that what we term achievements of the revolution remain intact. There are changes in almost all spheres of national life: the economic, the cultural, the social, and the political. Very little effort is needed to see the reemergence of the former ruling classes, although not with the same power. Many properties that had previously been confiscated have been given back. Nevertheless, land has also been given to the peasants, to those displaced by the contras, the EPS [Sandinist People's Army], and Mingo [Government Ministry]. The EPS is clearly, or at least apparently, trying to play a role of fully supporting the legitimacy that emerged from the elections. The same is true of the police, no longer called Sandinist, but rather National, while retaining in their midst, however, cadres that were created during the revolution.

The FSLN's political behavior, on the other hand, has clearly been contributing to the delineation of our party and of this new society in which we are now living and apparently will be living for many years.

When the government made known its decision to privatize, the FSLN, rather than oppose it, supported it, but asked that it also benefit the workers. When the government proposed the creation of the private banking system, the FSLN supported it. When the government proposed the Law on Foreign Investments, we supported it without major hesitation. When the government proposed a budget that even damaged the FSLN's natural base, we did not reject it, etc., etc., etc.

Contradictory Messages

This behavior on the part of the FSLN, and none other, is thus shaping our country in a definitive way and as never before. But regrettably, with regular frequency, we send contradictory messages to the Nicaraguan society.

An analysis of events leads to the conclusion that broad national areas of consensus are, in practice, imposing their will, independently of the will of individuals, whether these be persons or political parties, and are putting the latter at risk of being surpassed by events and of being irremissibly banished from the national political scene.

Our party faces this dilemma in failing to harmonize its behavior, and to clearly connote in our general behavior and in our discourse that we are a political party of the opposition, constructive, and steadfast in our defense of overriding national interests.

Those large areas of consensus make it possible for the first time in Nicaraguan history to talk about and maybe bring to fruition a National Project. This does not mean renouncing what we are, but rather trying to find issues that in general unite the Nicaraguan society or that simply are capable of rallying informed public support so that we can, in all good conscience, actively follow that path.

The FSLN is the majority party despite what our opponents may say. In its institutional configuration it is ahead of the other parties. Our obligations toward society are therefore greater. We must avoid continuing to be a party that moves by fits and starts, necessarily trailing behind historical events, and, what is even worse, without a proposal of our own to offer the government, the unions, the women—the women's

movement, United in Diversity, is a clear example—or the communal movement, etc....and in this way remaining predominantly a party of protest, without initiatives of our own, vanquished by our own inertia.

The FSLN has the duty and historical need to adopt a political project of its own, supported and carried forward by all Sandinists, and that project must be the National Project.

Panama

Government Continues To Recognize Fujimori

PA2404185292 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 24 Apr 92 p 8C

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] For the time being, the Panamanian Government recognizes the Peruvian ambassador accredited here by President Alberto Fujimori. The government is also waiting for the conclusion of a visit to Peru by an OAS mission, which it described as "decisive."

The Panamanian Government's decision was announced by President Guillermo Endara, who said the events in Peru are regrettable. He also said Panama cannot apply what is established in the Betancourt doctrine.

Endara explained that according to the Betancourt doctrine, Panama would not recognize governments that emerge from coups d'etat. This doctrine is not applicable in Peru's case because Fujimori was elected to the post he holds.

More on U.S. Officers Involved in Coup Attempt

PA2804015392 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 0005 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] The current Public Force has been one of the serious problems facing Panamanian democracy. After the collapse of the military dictatorship, many wanted to turn the armed institution into a national guard, not a public force. This moved Colonel Eduardo Herrera to attempt a coup d'etat under the watchful eyes of certain U.S. officers, who are currently retired. One of them was involved in the Iran-Contra case.

Meanwhile, U.S. Ambassador to Panama Deane Hinton has asked to meet with Attorney General Rogelio Cruz to obtain information on the three U.S. officers who knew about the coup d'etat attempt. Ariel Rosas filed this report from Quarry Heights:

[Begin recording] [President Guillermo Endara] In my opinion not only National Police elements, but civilians, such as labor leaders, were involved in that coup d'etat attempt. I have always regretted the fact that the attorney general has only superficially investigated this case.

[Rosas] These statements generated an answer from the Public Prosecutor's Office. All this began when Chiriqui Province Governor Edgar de Puy publicly denounced that only soldiers and not civilians, who had supported Col. Eduardo Herrera, have been investigated in connection with the 4 and 5 December 1990 coup d'etat attempt.

An intelligence memorandum to which the "Telemetro Reports" news team had access indicates that U.S. officers knew about the plot. All of them were members of a so-called Support Group:

[Emilio de Leon, Chiriqui Province public prosecutor] I have a suspicion there was in fact some sort of participation; there was negligence or agitation on the part of the U.S. officers.

[Unidentified reporter] How many?

[De Leon] I will supply this information to the attorney general, who asked for it, because Ambassador Hinton requested an appointment with him. They will meet and apparently discuss this issue.

[Rosas] After Col. Herrera was removed, the Southern Command forwarded this document [video shows document] to the 470th Battalion. The latter failed to supply the information to the U.S. Embassy. On 23 August 1990, an individual showed up at the Criminal Investigations Department, CID, to report that Col. Herrera was plotting a coup d'etat against the government of President Endara.

Upon learning this, the U.S. officers met at the home of the Panamanian officer. The U.S. intelligence services knew about Col. Eduardo Herrera's plans for a coup d'etat. Why did certain U.S. officers support the Panamanian officer? For a simple reason: They wanted the defunct Panama Defense Forces to become a National Guard. This would give the United States greater possibilities to interfere in national affairs. [end recording]

President Endara To Visit Colon 28 Apr

PA2804015492 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Excerpt] The crisis in Colon took a new turn on 27 April after President Guillermo Endara promised to visit the Atlantic coast on 28 April. Meanwhile, the Catholic Church has pointed out that the president's decision opens a new era of hope and progress for Colon Province.

After 10 days of protests and demonstrations, President Endara announced he would visit Colon on 28 April. However, he said his visit must be productive and that it should not increase the frustration of the people of Colon.

[Begin Endara recording] It would be counterproductive to go to a meeting that achieves nothing. I would come out frustrated and so would the people of Colon. I would not blame them if they were to come out frustrated and angrier than they are now. I have never rejected the possibility of traveling to Colon. It is not that I am afraid of Colon. I have gone there many times. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Linares: Country Not To Pay Delvalle's Bills

PA2704200992 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 25 Apr 92 p 4-C

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares has refused to pay $88,861.30 presented by the U.S. Government. The expenses were incurred by the U.S. Army Air Transport Command during former Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle's tenure as Panama's president-in-exile, which was recognized by Washington.

A Foreign Ministry document states that the U.S. Collection Office has asked the Panamanian Government to pay four bills to cover the expense of carrying Delvalle from Panama to the United States in U.S. military airplanes.

Linares said the bills will not be paid, arguing that from the moment Eric Arturo Delvalle was ousted, "he lost the legal authority to act on behalf of the Panamanian state;" he had no authority over the people and objects within Panamanian territory.

"The Republic of Panama is not legally obliged to pay the sum... they are trying to charge us," warned the foreign minister, asserting that he has informed U.S. Ambassador Deane R. Hinton of the situation.

According to Linares, so-called governments in exile "are neither true governments nor can they, in strictly legal terms, be considered as such."

The foreign minister's assertion adds another argument to the controversy over 10.7 million balboas in the Panamanian Treasury—frozen by the United States and placed at the disposal of Eric Delvalle's exiled government.

Argentina

Export Restriction on Sensitive Material Issued

PY2704171092 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The government today released a statement related to regulations on the export of sensitive material. The statement says that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is a serious threat to world peace and security, and represents one of the great current challenges.

The statement adds that, within this framework, Argentina has reached a significant level of development in some sensitive fields and believes that one of its obligations is to establish effective control over their possible use abroad for the production of weapons of mass destruction.

The staatement says that the executive branch today established regulations on the export of some materials, equipment, technology, technical assistance, nuclear and missile services, and chemical compositions which may contribute to the production or deployment of missiles and nuclear weapons.

The announcement was made in the White Hall of Government House. President Carlos Menem said:

[Begin recording] This action is a contribution by the Republic of Argentina to the search for peace in this region and the world. In our region, we are solving many border problems that are more than two centuries old. We have recently solved problems with Uruguay and with Chile. We will not overlook a single factor that could unleash confrontations resulting in irreparable consequences in this part of the world. Through this proposal, attitude, and measure, Argentina is proving that it seeks dialogue at the national and international level. [end recording]

This was part of President Carlos Menem's comments as he released the Argentine Government statement on the restriction on exports of sensitive material.

Details on Restrictions

PY2804033092 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2157 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Apr (NA)—The government today adopted a system for the control of materials, equipment, technology, and chemicals that may contribute to the production and deployment of missiles and nuclear, chemical, and bacteriological weapons as a means of fulfilling their nuclear nonproliferation policy.

The measure was disclosed at noon today—although President Carlos Menem signed the decree on 9 April—during a ceremony at the White Hall of Government House. The ceremony was attended by important diplomatic personalities, including U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman.

According to the national government's statement: "The new system does not unjustly restrict legal trade, but rather includes international criteria and coincides with control measures adopted by other countries."

It was asserted that this measure "will decidedly contribute to gaining access for Argentina to high technology through international cooperation."

In his message, President Menem said: "This important measure will allow responsible control of exports of sensitive items and a rationalization and systematization that will give the public administration and private sector a clearer idea of the criteria for controlling the sale of second-hand products used to manufacture weapons of mass destruction."

Menem said: "Argentina has traditionally maintained an ambiguous position on the issue." In this sense, he asserted: "We have not ratified the Tlatelolco Treaty and we are among the few states that have not yet adhered to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty."

The president noted: "Besides, we have transferred equipment to countries with unclear nuclear policies; something like this happened in the missile field. Moreover, this government recently adhered to the international Missile Technology Control Regime."

Further on, Menem asserted that the lack of a clear policy in this field "made us dangerous and unreliable, thus hindering cooperation with industrialized countries and blocking our access to high technology and financial aid."

Menem added: "Our government has decided to turn Argentina into a prosperous country and a reliable member of the international community." In this sense, he recalled agreements signed in this field, such as the nuclear safeguard agreement signed with Brazil and the declaration against chemical weapons signed with Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay.

The president said: "We have also adhered to the international Missile Technology Control Regime and have created the National Space Activities Commission, which, subordinated to the president of the Republic and to congressional control, will be in charge of all space activities."

In referring to the new system, Menem said: "It will not unjustly restrict legitimate trade and will include in the national order international criteria on nonproliferation." He noted that the new regulations "coincide with control mechanisms established by other friendly nations."

Menem said: "The step we have taken will have a direct and significant impact on our development. It will be the key to international cooperation that will give us access to high technology, which up to now was banned for Argentina."

The regulation signed by President Menem states: "The export of materials, equipment, technology, technical assistance, or services linked to uranium conversion or enrichment, fuel reprocessing, heavy water production, and plutonium production will not be authorized."

Menem added: "The export of reactors and enriched uranium or related technology may be authorized as long as an agreement on nuclear cooperation for peaceful purposes exists with the country involved."

Moreover, it is established that the executive branch will review agreements and export contracts in the nuclear field prior to this new legal system, in order to adopt, within 30 days, a decision on their contents." [quotation mark as received]

Menem on Defaulters, Antarctic Ecological Region

PY2704132092 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2332 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Puerto Iguacu, 24 Apr (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem has stated that the list of Central Bank [BCRA] defaulters will be passed to the private sector. Before doing so, however, the bank "will make every effort possible to collect the money from its debtors."

During a news conference at Puerto Iguacu, the chief of state explained that "the fact that delinquent debtors exist does not discredit them, morally speaking, because they have always existed and can always be rehabilitated." He cited the case of the Argentine state and its foreign creditors.

Menem noted that due to "the perverse financial system in Argentina, it was easy to open a bank or a financial enterprise, receive the peoples' savings, declare bankruptcy, and that was the end of it." [passage omitted]

Menem added: "These delinquent debtors can always be rehabilitated, and are being rehabilitated. Anyone can become a delinquent debtor at some stage. Even the Argentine Republic owed millions of dollars to the international organizations."

Menem continued: "Through being rehabilitated, we have been able to reach agreements with our creditors under which we will honor our debt and become fully reestablished, thus recovering our credibility and reliability, and obtaining new resources." [passage omitted]

Referring to the political dialogue with the Radical Party, Menem said: "We have not given any justification for an interruption of the dialogue. No one can be forced to talk if it is not in their interest, belief, or will."

Menem added: "We have not done anything to interrupt this dialogue which seeks to enhance democracy and fulfill the needs of the Argentine people."

In Menem's opinion: "We politicians must maintain permanent dialogue and, in spite of our disagreements, agree on what is necessary and positive for the Argentine Republic."

He said that the possibility of interrupting the dialogue "is tied to the posture of one radical sector, not of all radicals. He then added: "I think this was said by Eduardo Angeloz, not by any other sector." [passage omitted]

Regarding the final cost of the Uruguai Hydroelectric Dam, Menem said that he had already talked with economic authorities so that "the budget can be approved without delay, thus solving the problems."

Menem said: "The important thing is to build Uruguai. I am not denying that mistakes were made when the [words indistinct] which was estimated at $120 million and ended up costing $300 million. [passage omitted]

Menem announced the probability that Argentina will establish "another ecological region, outside the territories shared with Chile, in the Antarctic." People talk about ecological reserves; This one will be in our continent and we must do our utmost to preserve it.

[Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English on 26 Apr 92, page 1] reports that "President Carlos Menem stated in this city yesterday that the Argentine peso was stronger than the United States dollar or any other currency in the world."]

Cavallo Briefs Senate Committee on Foreign Debt

PY2804013692 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2117 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Apr (TELAM)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo said today that the combination of the convertibility regime and the Brady Plan "has had an unusual result because people with confidence in the peso use it more often thus bringing reserves to the Central Bank, which has a higher annual interest rate than what we pay for the foreign debt."

Cavallo, who briefed members of the Senate Economy, Budget, and Finance Committee for one and a half hours, said that in 1991 the foreign debt was $75.048 billion of which [words indistinct] percent of the interest was paid with discount bonds.

In this respect, said Cavallo, in 1992 the debt would be $62.181 billion with an interest rate of 1.7 percent. In 1993 the debt would be $60.122 billion with an interest rate of 2 percent. After that, the percentages would drop every year until 2000 when the debt would be $53.596 billion with an interest rate of 0.8 percent.

However, if the payments are made with collateralized bonds—which have no discount, but do have an interest rate—we would have a 3.1 percent interest rate for the 1991 debt, which was $75.048 billion. In 1992 the debt would be $70.362 billion with an interest rate of 1.7 percent.

In 1993 the debt would be $68.257 billion with an interest rate of 1.9 percent, and in 2000 the debt would be $62.831 billion with an interest rate of 0.8 percent.

Cavallo explained that whatever system is used—discount bonds or collateralized bonds—"we will end up paying the same interest by the year 2000—0.8 percent—although the size of the debt is less under the first system."

Cavallo said that "a foreign debt arrangement such as this, which reduces the use of fiscal resources with regard to what we have been paying and what we would pay under previous contractual terms, can only help lower inflation and assist in developing the country." He added: "This arrangement by no means implies a cause of recession or stagnation."

Cavallo recalled: "Over the past 12 months the gross industrial product has increased no less than 20 percent and the overall gross product has probably increased 6.5 percent, more than what we estimated." He added: "These projections are calculated with a 4 percent annual Argentine growth rate, which is a very reasonable figure."

Cavallo explained that the foreign debt "will place the cost of overall servicing below 1 percent of the GDP [gross domestic product] in a few years because the Convertibility Law prevents reserves from being used for debt service payments to the extent that these reserves are built up by the issuance of pesos."

He also explained: "Often we are going to receive interest paid for correct administration of the reserves that will represent more than the interest we will be paying" because "our entire negotiation proposal was that it was not a problem of available foreign currency or trade balance, but a fiscal problem."

After the lengthy and detailed report, independent Corrientes Autonomist Party Senator Jose Romero Feris reprimanded Cavallo for not reporting this before the negotiation with the creditor banks because "everything is done now." Romero Feris also argued with Salta Senator Juan Carlos Romero, who is head of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Later, he argued with former Neuquen Bishop Jaime de Nevares, about whom Romero Feris said: "He may know about Argentine souls, but he is not informed about the economy," replying to the bishop's recent criticism of the economic plan.

The meeting was chaired by Senate Provisional President Eduardo Menem, with the participation of Central Bank President Roque Fernandez and Economic Programming Secretary Juan Llach.

Finance Secretary Horacio Liendo and Institutional Relations Secretary Jose Luis Taglia were also present at the meeting. Cavallo announced that tomorrow at 1600 he will brief deputies on the same subject.

Commission Denies Danger at Nuclear Plant

PY2604214092 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Apr 92 p 4

[From the "Argentina in Brief" column]

[Text] (DYN)—The National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) denied yesterday that the Atucha I nuclear power plant was a potential environmental danger due to the possibility of leaks. The commission added, in a communique released yesterday, that the inspection currently being carried out at the plant "was recommended by an international body." The CNEA underlined that the inspection consisted of routine checks.

* Raul Alfonsin Launches 'National Movement'

92SM0356B Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Mar 92 p 8

[Text] Yesterday, former President Raul Alfonsin finally launched his long-heralded call for a Movement for Social Democracy to face "the strongest alliance ever put together in the country" and whose model of government he defined as a synthesis of the ideas of "elitist, self-serving democracy, the deserter government, and uncontrolled capitalism."

Alfonsin said "the road ahead will be hard and difficult" for those accompanying him on what will "perhaps be the last effort I make to serve the Radical cause." However, he tried to give hope to pessimists by recalling what Prometheus said to Mercury when he asked him how long Jupiter's reign would last:

"I know it will end," Prometheus told Jupiter, the former chief of state said, rousing an enthusiastic response from the public, which clearly interpreted his metaphor as a reference to the hegemony of Menemism.

During his political reemergence at a public event held last night in Buenos Aires's Mataderos district, which is veteran Councilman Liborio Pupillo's stronghold, Alfonsin delivered a speech mainly aimed at his party's internal leadership, which he called "stiff and disfigured by the sum of temptations, fatigue, fear, naivete, opportunism, and egotism."

Audience, Songs

Standing near the little platform and lecturn from which the former president spoke were National Deputy Leopoldo Moreau, former legislator Simon Lazara, now a member of Socialist Unity, and former metropolitan Mayor Facundo Suarez Lastra.

"Alfonsin, Alfonsin," "I see, I see, that we will take the government once again, as we did in '83," and "Ole, Ole, Ole, Ole, Raul, Raul!" were the chants shouted by those waiting to greet the Radical leader, who arrived at 2145.

Scarcely 30 minutes later and welcomed by the Storanist National Opinion Faction and a La Matanza banner proclaiming its support, Alfonsin took to the platform and began his speech on a more measured tone.

Alfonsin said the "anti-Radical preaching" emanating from the national government "is not the product of circumstantial events or the result of partisan confrontations," but rather, part of "a strategy to make the regime's program viable."

He defined the program as an "attempt to organize and systematize the political theories of an elitist, self-serving,

restrictive, exclusive democracy with the economic ideas of those who confuse individual freedom with the deserter government and uncontrolled capitalism."

He outlined the Radical proposals of participation and the ethics of solidarity, modernization, government reform, Argentina's insertion into the world, and social democracy and said they "comprise a model almost diametrically opposed to the one being put in place by the alliance now governing the country."

"We are being ruled by the strongest alliance we have had in the country since universal suffrage first existed. It is my opinion that every individual included in it is determined to keep it in power, transcending the issue of who actually heads the government, because its continuation will determine their actually staying in power, no more, no less," he emphasized.

Alfonsin said the Radicals "lack a strategy for confronting" this ruling alliance due to internal struggles and "a certain tendency toward feudalization" that limits what party leaders can actually accomplish.

"I am going to lead a movement to ask it (the UCR [Radical Civic Union] National Committee) to go down in history at the party centennial as the forger of a Civic Union capable of standing up to the onslaught of the reactionaries and of welcoming—whether or not it is a federative Union—all those who want to build an Argentina of freedom and justice within the framework of a democracy of participation and solidarity," he said.

Alfonsin said that his appeal, which goes beyond the limits of the UCR, reaches out to "true liberals," the supporters of "human, ethical, democratic socialism."

* Kohan Discusses Plans for Senatorial Candidacy

92SM0356A Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Mar 92 p 7

[Text] Alberto Kohan, former secretary general of the Presidency, appointed by Carlos Menem in 1989, and later minister of public health and social action, hopes to be chosen by Santa Fe Justicialists as their senatorial candidate. Kohan revealed his intentions to LA PRENSA to counter rumors to the effect that incumbent Senator Liliana Gurdulich de Correa would be reelected with the "consent" of the chief of state.

However, in recent statements Menem has denied having or supporting any candidate. "Furthermore," our interviewee pointed out, "the president stated specifically that the people of Santa Fe should decide among themselves who their party's candidates would be."

"As a native of the province," Kohan said, "I feel I have every right to serve my home region and country as senator. It is essential that the candidate be chosen by open elections."

We asked Kohan to define what he meant by this statement. "People should be able to participate in internal elections whether or not they are members. In other words, all citizens wishing to be involved in the selection would be able to cast their ballots, without any requirement as to party membership."

Kohan, a geologist by profession who says he has been a friend of Carlos Menem since 1974, when the latter appointed him to the La Rioja Underground Waters Directorate, "has faith in the country's future." Moreover, he says he is willing to cooperate "on the many tasks that lie ahead."

We asked him about the economic situation. "We are on our way, but much remains to be done before we can say that everything has been solved. It depends on how resolutely we pursue the programs designed and on everyone contributing to the nation's progress and development."

Two Different Countries

"We must leave behind all that business about Argentina being divided into two countries. the federal capital and the interior. When we finally stop being two different countries, we Argentines will see that everything goes better. In my own case, I hope to bestow on Santa Fe the benefits of experience acquired in the years I have recently lived in the federal capital."

We also asked Kohan for his opinion on the need to reform the National Constitution. "I think that in a changing world, a world in constant transformation, it is essential to update the nation's charter. However, constitutional reform must not be confused with presidential reelection," he emphasized.

"If Menem has a good government and if the people think they should reelect him, it will happen. I think that instead of a six-year term, the president should be elected for four years. If he is reelected, eight years is enough to carry out any government platform," Kohan said.

Finally, we asked him if he was sure he could be elected senator from Santa Fe. "Absolutely," he replied, "because I think I can do more. I am not just thinking about myself, but about a victory that will belong to my four children," he concluded, showing us a photograph of him in his office with his wife and children, whose ages range from seven to 16.

Brazil

Collor Article Advocates Social-Liberalism

PY2804005492 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Apr 92 Politics Section p 5

[Article by President Fernando Collor]

[Text] Democracy prevails in Brazil. From a social viewpoint, this democracy is still imperfect, still marked by unacceptable inequalities that we must correct. Politically, however, the achievements are clear. We are living

in a country where liberty prevails, government decisions are constantly submitted to criticism, public opinion is exercised and respected, and the established branches act independently and harmoniously.

We know that these two processes are combined and that the exercise of political democracy is a necessary step to correct social distortions that still separate those who have everything and enjoy privileged conditions from those who are struggling for survival.

Therefore, democracy means that, with broad participation and the daily practice of liberty, we will regain control of our destiny. Corporatist groups or ideologic minorities will not impose their paths on us.

However, it seems that for some rash analysts, old realities still prevail. They are lost when confronted with the natural exercise of political leadership, which is the president's duty, and especially, with the fact that the executive branch proposes and seeks discussion to direct government actions. Today we will advance and build a country worthy of all Brazilians only if we change the conduct of politics, if we accept the fact that we require clear lines and precise goals that actually guide economic actions and social programs and that, especially, have enough power to create a political consensus. Whoever intends to influence collective decisions must present good ideas.

With this goal in mind, I presented my social-liberal proposal, the basic guidelines of which have been defined and improved. Today I want to call attention to what it represents as a basis for government actions.

Everyone acknowledges that in recent years, the understanding of economic action models has undergone radical changes. On one hand, there are a very large number of proposals on the state's widespread presence in the economy. Fiscal crises, jeopardizing the ability to govern, occurred in countries where market rules prevailed. In socialist countries, the dramatic problem of limited growth opportunities, which jeopardized social justice, was notable.

On the other hand, we know that the market system is not a panacea. It cannot be extended infinitely. The market system serves as a support for economic dynamics, but it does not fulfill the greatest hopes of societies.

Therefore, there is a need for extensive discussions to promote comprehension of a conceptually complex issue, which is extremely difficult to implement concretely: the state's role in today's world. Every country will have its own problems and solutions, but no public official can be detached from the main theme of this time: What is the best economic tool for creating social justice?

I insist that these proposals are the basis for discussing the limits of the state and the market systems. These proposals have a specific feature, however: The efficiency of the economic solution is measured against the social goals that it must accomplish.

Another important point—which makes these proposals different from previous proposals—is that they are not a doctrinal, closed body that will be imposed from the top by those in power. These proposals represent an invitation for discussions and it would not be bad idea for those who write rashly about this issue to instead propose intelligent, effective ways of reconciling economic dynamics with the requirements of social justice.

I want these proposals to serve today's Brazil and to serve Brazil in today's world. In light of current radical transformations in the political, economic, and social fields, the greatest sin is to hold on to dogmas, simplistic views, and rash interpretations. I am convinced that the great benefit of social-liberalism is that it can represent a point of convergence for many who have already perceived that past formulas—whether statist or those involving a naive or conservative liberalism—are no longer useful.

The country's need to develop and to overcome shameful social inequalities and injustices represent a very concrete challenge. This challenge will only be met using the democratic way, taking for granted the citizenry's clear involvement through discussions and adopting a basic platform of consensus. My social-liberal proposal must be understood as an invitation, as a call for all Brazilians to take part of these broad discussions, during which we will have to choose the means that will achieve the solutions for us, to result in the full realization of Brazil's destiny of grandeur.

* Role of NGO Bloc at Rio-92 Conference Seen

92SM0371A Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese
8 Apr 92 pp 72, 73

[Text] The biggest ecological lobby group in the history of this planet is already warming up and getting ready to field its team noisily within eight weeks, when the Rio-92 Conference begins. Six thousand activists from the so-called non-governmental organizations, or NGOs, entities from 110 countries that have interests at stake at the Earth Summit will be in Rio de Janeiro in June. They will be meeting in what is known as the Global Forum, an enormous parallel conference headquartered at Flamingo Park on the Rio seaside and will attempt to influence the outcome of the official meeting, whose headquarters will be the Riocentro in Jacarepagua. At the Global Forum, very traditional ecological entities such as Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) will share the microphones with the International Chamber of Commerce, which is interested in discussing the biodiversity of the forests, a treasure trove that could yield new industrial patents for countries that have tropical rainforests. The NGO bloc even includes the Palestine Liberation Organization and its interests in the geopolitics of petroleum in the Middle East, a target of ecologists since the Gulf war. It is unlikely that those entities will achieve any consensus, but this does not seem to bother the organizers of the Global Forum.

"It is the interest in sustainable development, in progress without destroying nature, that will bring all those entities together in Rio," said Forum coordinator Warren Lindner, 49, an American who left a successful law practice to become an ecological activist. He still heads the Center for Our Common Future, in Geneva, from which he was recruited by the UN to coordinate the Global Forum. The discussions will be enlivened not only by the team of lobbyists, but by another noisy bunch captained by movements of feminists, minorities, and by ecological entities created on the eve of the conference in order not to miss out on the party. "If registrations had been restricted to entities that were established more than a year ago, we would have a better-qualified sample. Many NGOs were born out of political opportunism," says Herbert de Souza, known as Betinho, executive secretary of the Brazilian Institute of Social and Economic Analysis (IBASE), which relinquished the role of coordinator of the Global Forum because it disagreed with the lobbying of the NGO "arrivistes."

Allergic to Businessmen

The opportunism of some activists will not compromise the seriousness of the parallel meeting. The heads of state know the traditional NGOs will serve as underwriters and strict overseers of what is to be decided at Rio-92. In the future, they will demand fulfillment of the commitments made at the UN conference. Many of the NGOs are capable of carrying out long-term, comprehensive ecological projects that would never otherwise get off the official drawing boards. So, they are respected. An example of this is Brazil's SOS Atlantic Forest [SOS Mata Atlantica], created in 1986 and now one of the most successful NGOs working in this country. With a modest annual budget of $800,000, SOS Atlantic Forest is an example of how an NGO can move from criticism to effective action in order to preserve the environment. With backing from private enterprise, in 1990 the group made the first survey of what remains of the Atlantic Forest, one of the most devastated on the planet, which retains only 8.8 percent of its original canopy.

Last week, the entity released a new study with even more precise figures on the deforestation of the area. In cooperation with the National Institute of Space Research (INPE), SOS Atlantic Forest discovered that the focal points of the deforestation of the Atlantic forest are still active. In Rio de Janeiro State alone, 30,000 hectares of forest were ruined between 1985 and 1990—an area equivalent in size to the city of Belo Horizonte. "The deforestation is occurring mainly because of real estate speculation and agriculture," explains Diana Hamburger, a geographer who is coordinating the project. "All the concerns are being directed toward Amazonia, but it is the Atlantic Forest region that is home to 80 percent of Brazil's people," said Joao Paulo Capobianco, superintendent of the organization. In contrast to many of the ecological entities, SOS Atlantic Forest is not allergic to businessmen. In fact it is chaired by one of them, Roberto Klabin, who is on the board of Klabin Industries.

No Vote

All over the world, the NGOs control millions of dollars and have teams of experts that are more capable than most governments have. An example: Oxfam, an organization set up in London 50 years ago, has worked with the people of the Sahara desert to develop technologies to prevent desertification of areas that are suitable for farming. To prevent soil erosion, for example, they use blocks of stone to support the contour furrows. The activities of these entities know no geographic boundaries. The WWF sponsors the conversion of debt into funds for environmental projects all over the world. Greenpeace, with its 5 million members (more than any Brazilian political party has) led the successful campaign to curb the expansion of nuclear energy. The Amazon Natural Resources Protection Service (Soprem) has been able to set up extractive agriculture reserves in the Amazon region, and did so years before international pressure was brought to bear on Brazil to take care of the rainforest.

"The world is not going to wake up greener when Rio-92 ends, but the future of the planet depends on the results of this conference," said Tony Gross, right-hand man of Global Forum coordinator Warren Lindner. At the parallel conference, the NGOs will be meeting at Flamingo Park, where 36 polypropylene tents are being erected to house the sessions. The most articulate lobby group will gather at the Hotel Gloria where, every morning, NGO activists will evaluate the decisions made by the official conference the day before. Four hundred observers from the NGOs will be able to attend Rio-92, but they will not be entitled to vote. The ones who run the show there are the heads of state and the official delegations. A giant television screen set up at Flamingo Park will transmit images and information on the official conference to the lobbyists. Maurice Strong, secretary general of Rio-92, has personally promised to use the screen to keep the activists informed.

Backpackers

Initially planned as a mega-event, the Global Forum had to be scaled back for lack of money. The organizations wanted to sell 10 advertising quotas at $800,000 each to finance the meeting. As of last week, they had not been able to sell any of them. Alarmed about the shortage of funds, the organizers asked the federal government for money. They were met with a resounding "no." But Rio de Janeiro Governor Leonel Brizola was willing to help. He promised $2 million in official assistance. Brizola decided to help the Global Forum when he was notified by the president of the Commercial Association of Rio de Janeiro, Paulo Protasio, that he would be allowed only three minutes to address the official conference.

The United Nations has allocated $1 million to the parallel meeting, and Brazilian officials have promised to guarantee infrastructure services for the participants. The activists will not have to pay for telecommunications, electricity, mail, or transportation. There will even be a little official help with accommodations. The $50 registration fee paid by the lobbyists to attend the

meeting does not include lodging, but the Rio government has offered to let the backpackers camp out at the Sambodromo.

Chile

Aylwin Calls For Coexistence With Military

PY2504165692 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] In today's dedication ceremony at the first seminar on the Armed Forces' work and role in protecting the environment, President Patricio Aylwin called for peaceful coexistence between civilians and the military.

The opening ceremony was held at the Diego Portales Building convention center. The main speaker was President Aylwin who stressed in his speech the leading role of the Armed Forces in promoting care and protection of the environment. The president added that military service plays an important educational role in teaching young Chileans to better know and love our fatherland.

High-ranking military and Carabineros officers listened carefully to Aylwin's remarks, especially when the president improvised part of his speech and directly addressed the military officers.

[Begin Aylwin recording, in progress] ...and demonstrate that we are capable not only of living in peace, but of together building a fatherland that will be worthier, greater, and better for all Chileans [applause]. [end recording]

President Aylwin then cut the ribbon symbolizing the dedication. He was accompanied by the defense minister and the chief of staff, who organized the seminar. They toured the different stands where displays of the work and missions that the Armed Forces are carrying out in defense of the environment.

The seminar will continue until 30 April; tomorrow it will be open for the general public.

Relations Termed 'Normal'

PY2404142492 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Enrique Correa, secretary general of government, said today that there is no reason for the population to be afraid of tension between the government and the Armed Forces because, he said, relations are absolutely normal.

Minister Correa reported on the cabinet meeting held in La Moneda Palace this morning during which creation of an undersecretariat for public security was discussed. This is an issue in which the government is willing to seek agreement with the opposition as long as the agreement strengthens and does not weaken the Interior Ministry's role in security matters.

Another issue discussed during the cabinet meeting was the government decision to support the investigation that the Chamber of Deputies wants to conduct into the political espionage issue. The government believes this investigation must be free of compromise.

After talking about the cabinet meeting, Correa was asked about issues relating to the civic-military relationship and about the luncheon held by the Armed Forces commanders and the police this week in Valparaiso.

[Begin recording] [Correa] We do not comment on luncheons.

[Unidentified reporter] It has been reported that the issue of the Carabineros was discussed [words indistinct].

[Correa] We do not like to comment on luncheons or dinners.

[Reporter] Was the meeting considered a deliberative body?

[Correa] We do not comment on luncheons or dinners.

[Reporter] How does the government label its relations with the military?

[Correa] We believe that relations are normal. They are normal institutional relations being carried out through normal channels. We have no further comment on this. We do not believe there is anything that should cause concern among the people. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Government Ratifies Agreement With Argentina

PY2504154492 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] The government has ratified full implementation of the economic complementation agreement signed with Argentina in August 1991. In an official statement issued by the ministers of foreign relations, economy, and agriculture, the government also confirmed all commitments with the neighboring country to further develop their commercial integration program.

This statement was issued as a result of a conflict in the agricultural sector. It adds that less than a year after implementation of the agreement, progress in the commercial field has increased bilateral trade to an estimated $1 billion this year.

The statement also stresses progress in the integration of such areas as energy, transport, tourism, and, especially, reciprocal investments, which have reached unprecedented levels. The Chilean Government also reaffirmed its total commitment to the principles of free trade and the free circulation of goods and people.

The conflict began when Argentine officials and businessmen asked their government to adopt restrictions on Chilean exports to Brazil that transited through Argentine territory. These restrictions would represent retaliation for the strict health controls imposed by Chile on Argentine fruits and vegetables in transit on Chilean highways.

According to the Argentine businessmen, Chilean measures are too strict and do not comply with regular international trade rules. However, it is said in our country that these control measures are more flexible than those Chile must follow when exporting fruit to Japan.

Envoy Comments on Agreement

PY2504162892 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Carlos Figueroa, Chilean ambassador to Argentina, said today that unfortunately, the extent of the Chilean-Argentine economic agreement has not been fully understood.

Figueroa is in Santiago to report on his activities and to attend Chilean Foreign Ministry meetings on Chilean-Argentine bilateral relations. The meetings are being held following the impasse caused by the discontent shown by some Argentine and Chilean sectors over implementation of the economic complementation agreement between the two countries. In this regard, Figueroa said:

"I believe that the people, the economic agents, and all the officials involved in this matter should better understand this issue because, unfortunately, the extent of the agreement has not been fully understood. As reported in the joint declaration issued by the foreign, economy, and agriculture ministers, the agreement has historic importance. The agreement is aimed at facilitating economic and commercial cooperation in many fields between the two countries."

Figueroa noted the growing economic exchange between Chile and Argentina. As an example, he emphasized the increase in Chilean exports to Argentina, which grew 127 percent in 1991. Ambassador Figueroa said that beyond these factors, one should consider overall trade. He added that at the current rate, trade will reach $2 billion in 1992. Figueroa also pointed out the importance of the agreement. He said.

"The agreement covers an overall area of energy integration such as the construction of a gas pipeline from Tierra del Fuego and the possibility of building a gas pipeline from the [name indistinct] in Arauco to the Chilean central valley, an oil pipeline from Neuquen to Puerto Hernandez and the Concepcion region, and several other projects in the border regions such as the supply of natural gas from Puerto Natales to the Rio Turbio mining center."

Figueroa added that cargo transportation between the two countries has been deregulated, the movement of people is being facilitated, and tourism has improved. He recalled that 80 percent of the tourism in Chile comes from Argentina. He also stated that investments between the two counties are increasing. He added that this situation makes him very optimistic. He concluded by saying that the declaration released by the foreign, economy, and agriculture ministers shows the extensive Chilean-Argentine agreements in the proper perspective.

Pinochet Calls Meeting With Aylwin 'Pleasant'

PY2404024092 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Army Chief General Augusto Pinochet labeled the meeting he held with President Patricio Aylwin in La Moneda Palace this afternoon as pleasant. Gen. Pinochet denied that he conveyed to President Aylwin the annoyance of the Army with the comments made by Defense Minister Patricio Rojas.

The meeting was requested by the Army last week after it publicly expressed its annoyance with the report made by Defense Minister Patricio Rojas about the previous meeting between President Aylwin and the Army chief, concerning a recommendation given to Pinochet to report on the itinerary of his trips abroad to prevent embarrassing situations like the one in Ecuador. On that occasion Pinochet also was asked to clarify the involvement of the Dine [Army Intelligence Directorate] in the so-called political espionage case.

After the 15-minute meeting ended, Gen. Pinochet denied that he discussed the previous meeting with Aylwin.

[Begin recording] [Pinochet] We did not discuss that meeting.

[Unidentified reporter] But the Army communique says that you requested a meeting to express your annoyance.

[Pinochet] That can be expressed in many ways.

[Several unidentified reporters, interrupting; questions indistinct]

[Pinochet] I will only say the following: The meeting was very pleasant. That is all.

[Several unidentified reporters, interrupting; questions indistinct]

[Pinochet] There are no problems between the president and myself.

[Reporter] What do you think of the situation your son is facing in Honduras?

[Pinochet] That the person who phoned him is a hypocrite because she said she was his wife.

[Reporter] But what do you think of being rejected in that country because of the human rights violations?

[Pinochet] [Words indistinct] must have ethical principles. Goodbye. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry on Border Issue With Bolivia

PY2504015092 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Report by Carmen Castro at the Foreign Ministry—live]

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas has stated that the Chilean-Bolivian Border Committee is not considering a possible transfer of territory to Bolivia. He terms as improper a report from La Paz that Bolivians will recover 15 square km of territory.

Vargas said this commission is not dealing with any diplomatic or legal matter but with a technical problem.

The Chilean-Bolivian border is 848 km long has been demarcated for several years. This process, Vargas said, concluded in 1930, but it also became necessary to set new intermediate border markers. The Chilean-Bolivian border was demarcated between 1906 and 1930 as established in the 1904 treaty. A total of 112 border markers were set in 49 well-defined points.

Vargas said the commission will reach an agreement that will be required to strictly comply with the 1904 treaty.

[Begin Vargas recording] There have been no talks to hand over kilometers of territory. I will repeat that the issue is the border that was established by the 1904 treaty. This border has been demarcated through man-made and natural border markers, which were then reinforced. This is not a matter of whether to hand over territory. The issue is to determine what is established in an international agreement that is recognized by both Bolivia and Chile. If there were mistakes in the past, they will be corrected. This is the task of this commission, which is similar to that of all international border commissions. [end recording]

The Chilean Foreign Ministry has always insisted on the fact that these are problems of minimal importance, that the area being discussed is small, and that any disagreement will be solved on the basis of existing treaties.

Colombia

Minister Says Break With Peru 'Not Considered'

PA2804043692 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 24 Apr 92 p 9

[Text] Although President Alberto Fujimori cut off the strings linking his country to democracy, Colombia has not considered breaking diplomatic relations with that Andean nation, a measure adopted by Venezuela.

Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin de Rubio made this remark, reiterating that the government remains firm in its decision to respect the autonomy of other nations. She said intervention will only be permissible if done through mechanisms established by the OAS.

Regarding the attitude of Jaime Gutierrez Plaza—the Colombian ambassador to Peru who, without consulting the foreign minister, met with Maximo San Roman—Sanin de Rubio maintained that the ambassador's decision lacked political content because he acted without his government's authorization.

With this announcement, the Foreign Ministry tried to deny that there was any link between Fujimori's decision to suspend tariff advantages—a measure subsequently copied by Colombia—and Ambassador Gutierrez' visit to San Roman. "Unfortunately, our country had to follow the Peruvian example to protect Colombian businessmen," the minister said.

Referring to the Andean Pact, she believes that the most recent incidents in Peru "seriously harm the region," but President Gaviria's government hopes "that this country will return to a democratic and constitutional path."

Radio, Television Workers Join Telecom Strike

PA2504144392 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] The labor union for the National Institute of Radio and Television [Inravision] has decided to support the strike of the state-owned Colombian Telecommunciations Enterprise [Telecom] and has called for a solidarity strike on 30 April. The decision was adopted following a meeting of 40 unions and four labor centrals during which they analyzed the Telecom situation.

The labor union of the Colombian Association of Television Workers has called for a national meeting of all Telecom labor unions on 28 April.

In addition, it was decided to stage staggered strikes, joint assemblies, and rallies as of 27 April.

Gaviria Denies Peace Dialogue 'Confusing'

PA2504192192 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria has denied that the government's peace dialogue with the guerrillas is confusing and clarified that if circumstances have changed, it is due to the incoherent attitude of the guerrillas who insist on carrying out violent actions while they talk about peace.

The president announced this stand in a note answering the leaders of the Movement of National Salvation [MSN] who had told him they were concerned about the peace dialogue in Mexico.

I agree with you that dialogue is a resource of civilized man to obtain results, but I differ with you when you say that the dialogue is confusing, President Gaviria Trujillo said in his note to the MSN leadership.

Gaviria said the process is open and crystal clear so that all will understand the government's plans.

Opposes Regional Talks

PA2504225892 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] On 24 April, the second summit meeting of governors began near Neiva, Huila Department. President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo opened the meeting with a speech praising the tax reform bill, which has been the target of criticism by Valle del Cauca Department Governor Carlos Holguin, among others. Gaviria also commented on the conflict with the guerrillas and the strike at the Colombian Telecommunications Enterprise. The president indicated that talks with the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] are not the only thing involved in the peace process, as the justice system and the police are being strengthened simultaneously.

Gaviria arrived very early in Neiva. Before speaking at the governors' meeting, he met with Huila trade groups and political leaders and visited the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise camp. Talking before 28 governors, he said progress cannot be made in the peace process by weakening the agreements reached with other rebel groups. He was referring to the systematic way in which almost 100 former guerrillas of the Popular Liberation Army have been killed on orders from CNGSB leader Francisco Caraballo. He also ruled out holding talks or reaching agreements at a regional level with rebels, as some governors suggested.

[Begin Gaviria recording] As we said before, holding regional talks, which some may demand in the future, would be very complex. That is why government authorization is required to hold this kind of talks. You will understand that the purpose of this kind of dialogue is not for the governors and regional forces to coexist with the guerrillas, but must serve the purpose of peace and the demobilization of the guerrillas. Only within this framework can we think of the possibility of holding regional talks.

A unilateral cease-fire would also be necessary, because the government would be very hard pressed to provide full security for governors, area residents, and the different rebel groups. Only during a cease-fire would it be possible to hold regional talks. If these conditions are met, we could have regional talks in the future. [end recording]

Status of Peace Talks

PA2504231992 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] The peace dialogue is going through difficult times. When Deputy Government Minister Hector Riveros Serrato returned, it was finally learned what is happening in Tlaxcala. Upon his return, Riveros Serrato said the guerrillas changed the rules of the game. Now, he claims, they are demanding a new recess and they are not complying with the points proposed two weeks ago to Father Nel Beltran, the church mediator.

[Begin Riveros Serrato recording] The Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] has not demonstrated an attempt to understand the government's position. As we have said previously, it is not only the government's position, but that of the society: To deal immediately with the issue of violence in Colombia, which is hurting the nation so greatly. It is also impossible to avoid dealing with the kidnapping issue. [end recording]

Riveros Serrato had to return to Colombia as he was unable to communicate with the government.

[Begin Riveros Serrato recording] We have had some communication problems and we preferred to discuss personally some views with President Gaviria. [end recording]

The CNGSB communicates with their leadership from Tlaxcala through a special radio.

[Begin Riveros Serrato recording] The CNGSB communicates with their leadership by radio. This means of communication was previously set up in Mexico by the CNGSB. We obviously have had difficulties. There was an attempt to use some alternatives, such as radios, but this is not the best way for us to communicate with Bogota. [end recording]

The Deputy Government Minister will travel to Mexico again on 26 April with the government's position regarding the CNGSB change of stance, of not respecting the agreements reached at the beginning of the peace dialogue.

* Liberals' Internal Divisions, Politics Viewed

92SM0360A Santa Fe de Bogota CROMOS in Spanish 16 Mar 92 pp 20-25

[Article by Roberto Ramirez N.: "Relations Between the Government and Congress Are Not Easy; Is This a Clash Between the Old and New Vision of the Country?"; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] The rebellion of the party election bosses is causing realignments within the Liberal Movement and is bringing up once again the subject of presidential candidacies. The government party is losing power locally despite the fact that a majority of the voters support it.

When the recently inaugurated President Gaviria called for the convocation and election of a National Constituent Assembly, the country as a whole, with some notable exceptions, welcomed this development as the fundamental step Colombia, in the view of public opinion, needed to take to modernize its worn-out and obsolete institutions. All well informed sources stated at the time that major reforms would take place in this area, as in fact happened. Once the Constituent Assembly was in session, an atmosphere of opposition to the old Congress developed in the country. This made it

possible to anticipate that the Constituent Assembly, in its well known statement that it held "plenary powers," would order the dissolution of the Congress elected in March 1990.

And, as if it were a small detail, the majority in the Constituent Assembly issued a call to the minority groups headed by M-19 [19 April Movement] and the National Salvation Movement, which had little representation in the "old" Congress. We all know the final result: after various comings and goings and meetings at Narino Palace, President Gaviria agreed to dissolve Congress. This step, with some further changes, finally turned out to be of fundamental significance for the Liberal Movement, as it made members of the Constituent Assembly ineligible to run for office in the new Congress that was to be elected at large on 27 October 1991.

What not even the most optimistic Liberal Party election bosses ever imagined was that on 27 October, after everything that had happened and with elections at large, the Liberals would obtain a surprising victory that assured them of an ample majority in a Congress now legitimated by the climate of the new system. And already, from that moment on, comments were made in political circles about the desire for revenge felt by members of the old Congress against the administration of President Gaviria, who, they thought, had not defended them adequately against the attacks made against them by Antonio Navarro and Alvaro Gomez.

Therefore, the political atmosphere was not the best, and it was only a matter of waiting for the right occasion. Then came the month of January 1992, with an unexpected increase in inflation; the radicalization of labor conflicts in the banking and electricity sectors; a delicate, social situation throughout the country, particularly in sectors as important to the national economy as coffee and cotton; even the attempted coup d'etat in Caracas, which was reflected here; a press that began to withdraw support of the administration; and a feeling of impotence and pessimism regarding the phenomenon of the guerrilla war. That is, the administration began to feel the heat, which, sooner or later, comes to all presidents.

Against this general background and the public attitude of reserve displayed toward the administration by Manuel Francisco Becerra, the controller general of the Republic, a group of independent senators began to form. For the most part their common denominator is that they belong to the old class of politicians. Everything began with a luncheon on 12 February 1992 in the office of Manuel Becerra. Attending as a special guest was William Jaramillo Gomez, a former presidential candidate and the new president of the State Bank. In addition to Gomez other guests included Luis Guillermo Giraldo, Alberto Santofimio, Orlando Vasquez, and Gustavo Dajer, the principal promotors of this movement within the Senate, as well as other people. During the luncheon opinions were exchanged on relations with the administration and the general situation in the country. Finally, as was to be expected, the subject of presidential candidacies came up, and the name of Ernesto Samper Pizano was mentioned.

Everyone Against Samper

That was when anti-Samper views began to emerge. Some of them were motivated by open opposition to the former cabinet minister. Others said that the time would never come when Samper would feel "satisfied" with the data brought out in the polls. Then he would ignore them without negotiating or agreeing on the allocation of positions in a future government. One of those attending the lunch would comment later that, "If we go on like this, without putting up someone to run against Samper, no one will pay any attention to us in the 1994 elections, and a possible administration led by Samper will be even further removed from the group of old style politicians than the administration of President Gaviria."

Then there appeared an additional ingredient in this political menu that was being prepared. The truth is that until now no figure is in sight in the Liberal Movement who could prevent Samper from obtaining the Liberal nomination, despite the recent appearances on the scene of Carlos Lemos and Enrique Parejo in Santa Fe de Bogota. In all of the polls conducted during the past year regarding Liberal candidates, Samper has always had the support of 65 to 70 percent of those polled. Those who came next in the polls, including Humberto De la Calle and Carlos Lemos Simmonds, did not have the support of more than 15 percent. In an internal poll of the people in this context no one objected to the idea of Samper, the present ambassador to Spain, as the Liberal candidate. Even if he named the party candidate for the vice presidency, he would face no opposition within the party.

Interests That Unite

That was when the idea came up of publishing a document in which, besides marking out the distance between this group of senators and the government, they would declare themselves neutral regarding presidential candidates in 1994. The purpose of this position would be to prevent a greater landslide of senators toward the candidacy of Samper, in view of his strength in the polls. According to the old Liberal party bosses, the polls are like witches. They do not believe in them, but there they are, there they are. This provides confirmation of that old theory that states that in politics what unites people is hatred and not love. At the same luncheon they began to collect the signatures of senators, and this was good enough for them. Some of them signed out of a desire for revenge against President Gaviria for having dismissed the old Congress. Others did not hide their dislike for the candidacy of Samper and intended to stop it. Some others are enemies of the policy of an accelerated opening up of the economy. Still others are manipulated by Becerra, the controller general of the Republic, who has not rejected the idea that he might be a candidate for vice president. Others are friends of Carlos Lemos Simmonds who hope that this group of senators will wind up supporting him. Finally, there was a variety of interests

represented at the luncheon. This makes it possible to doubt that this group of senators is particularly solid in their view of the future.

The DNL Intervenes

Since everything becomes known in political life, on the evening of 12 February a dinner was held by some of Samper's friends. There they learned about the luncheon earlier in the day, who attended, and what was being proposed. By this time the cards were already on the table, and the formation of this group of senators was no secret to anyone.

On 19 February the Liberal National Directorate [DNL], the Council of Advisers to the minister of finance, the secretary general of the Office of the Presidency, and the controller general of the Republic met at the Liberal Party's headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was for those attending to discuss the policy of privatization of financial entities. Minister of Finance Hommes and Controller General Becerra collided openly on this occasion.

However, there was an extra dish that was not on the day's menu. Senator Jose Blackburn, a supporter of Galan and a faithful friend of the administration, criticized the controller general for openly participating in political life and for his willingness to lead a group within the party working against the interests of the president. He recalled Becerra's commitment when he accepted his present position not to interfere with the functioning of the party or use his bureaucratic power improperly, as happened to his predecessor in the position. Becerra was visibly affected. He stated that the luncheon had been set up on the spur of the moment and was not prepared in advance and that he would not participate again in this kind of activity.

However, the Senate group continued to seek supporters. It felt that its anti-administration position had been strengthened by the decision made by President Gaviria to declare a social emergency for the purpose of increasing the salaries of members of the National Police Force. The president said that this action was taken in view of the delay in passing the draft bill for this purpose in the Senate. The president referred to the serious situation that would result from the threat that, for the first time in the history of the country, this armed force, which is charged with keeping order during an avalanche of labor and civic strikes throughout the country, would go out on strike.

The argument in favor of taking this action seemed reasonable enough. However, the Senate viewed it as one more action against its interests by the government, which sought to diminish its prestige in the eyes of public opinion. Furthermore, the senators felt this action was preparing the way for the much questioned reform of the taxation system to be enacted into law, using this same kind of constitutional device. As of now there is little probability that the tax reform bill would be approved by Congress.

So this marked a low point in the crisis of relations between the president and the Congress. The government was forced to undertake a diplomatic offensive in Congress, which took the form of a meeting on 15 March of all Liberal Party members in Congress with the president and his cabinet ministers at Narino Palace.

It was hoped that machinery for coordination would emerge from this meeting, as well as Liberal support for the administration on some draft laws considered of vital importance. It was also hoped that these draft bills would be studied in a patriotic spirit, basically out of consideration for the interests of the party. These bills included new legislation on political parties, the new structure of the Bank of the Republic, the reform of the pension system, the regulation of states of emergency, the system of allowances for government employees, and tax reform, to mention only a few of them.

Behind the Curtain

However, what do the independent or rebel members of Congress really want? In the first place, it is clear that the scenario of relations between the administration and Congress changed radically under the new constitution. The influence previously exercised by Congress has disappeared. Thus, the factors of power that were formerly used no longer exist.

A Congress without parliamentary staff, with the power of passing no confidence motions against cabinet ministers, and, more importantly, in view of the popular election of the governors of departments and mayors of cities and towns, is a Congress with real autonomy and independence. This situation is good for democracy, provided always that congressional powers are used with prudence and respect, out of consideration for the higher interests of the country.

The truth is that, with the popular election of the governors of departments, the ultimate factor of power disappeared that succeeding administrations were accustomed to using to press for the approval of draft legislation, since not only regionally elected officials but also the cabinets of the various departments depended on the administration. Provincial politicians know that local power lies in the offices of mayors and governors of departments.

If, during the administration of President Barco when these instruments of power were not yet available, the shameful incident involving the defeat of the constitutional reform of 1989 had occurred, can you imagine that same situation without having these instruments of "persuasion" available?

In this framework of institutional independence the rebel senators feel that they have enough power to propose initially a change in the cabinet. One of them said in a corridor of the national capitol building that, "We Liberals do not feel that we are represented by ministers such as Carillo, Hommes, Pardo, or Vargas,

who are friends of the president but who know nothing about what the Liberal Movement is in the provinces."

Furthermore, a more radical position has also been adopted in some areas, such as returning to a party government, since they consider that President Gaviria has been too generous with the conservatives in the distribution of political positions. In the first case President Gaviria will certainly give way, and in the next few days a more political cabinet is expected to be announced. However, sources close to the president state that in no way will he change the structure of the national government, with the participation of the most important political parties and movements, as has been the case up to now.

Another of the objectives of this group of senators is to ensure a majority in the forthcoming Liberal leadership, which will be elected at the party convention scheduled for June 1992, and to force the election of a president of Congress of their own choosing for the legislative session that begins in July 1992.

However, these are short-term objectives. Over the longer term and after analyzing the situation in detail, what we see coming is a new confrontation between the new and the old Liberal Party. In other words, between the new country and the old country. This will be a challenge from the old group of politicians who were strengthened by the results of the elections of 27 October 1991. The challenge will be directed at President Gaviria and Ernesto Samper, who represent the generational change in the political structure and the change in political customs. Despite the apparent differences in the economic and social field between President Gaviria and Ambassador Samper in Madrid, in the view of the Liberal Party bosses it is clear that in the political field they have identical views on questions as important as the opening up of space in the area of democratic rights, raising the moral level of political life, and the use of dialogue to resolve the armed conflict the country is experiencing. There are even some of those who signed the declaration who state that the Samper candidacy in the 1994 elections is being prepared in the Presidential Palace. Furthermore, Samper has reiterated both in public as well as in private his solidarity with President Gaviria and has decided to try his luck by supporting the government of the "turnover."

It is enough just to look at who signed the declaration and who did not sign it to see the differences. Old party bosses like Victor Renan Barco, Alberto Santofimio, Tito Rueda, and leaders questioned by public opinion for their moral behavior, such as Samuel Escruceria, Felix Salcedo, and Rafael Forero, are among the leaders of this group, while new figures in the Liberal Party, such as Alberto Montoyo Puyana, Fuad Char Abdala, Jose Blackburn, Alvaro Uribe Velez, Julio Cesar Turbay Quintero, and Fernando Botero Zea, among others, are not members of this group.

Not Insignificant Electoral Support

However it may be interpreted, there is no doubt that this group that is just now emerging will not be insignificant for the presidential future of any of the potential Liberal candidates, although there is a belief in congressional circles that it will not remain as large and solid as it is now, due to the diversity of individual members' interests and backgrounds. If they succeed in keeping the support of at least 20 senators and decide to work for candidacies such as those of Carlos Lemos, Luis Fernando Jaramillo, or Humberto De la Calle, for example, these people could consider running against other, possible candidates, such as Samper. The difficult part for any of them is to keep a good image in the eyes of public opinion, as they are associated with figures who, justly or unjustly, are rejected nationally.

Liberal Future

In conclusion, the Liberal Party has now opened itself up and will be of great importance for the future of the various candidates. Not only because of what happened on 12 April in the local elections, with the emergence of Enrique Parejo as another Liberal possibility and in which the Liberal Movement lost important mayoral elections, but also in the election of the new leadership of the Liberal Movement and of the president of Congress for the next session. If in fact these developments do not identify the candidate, they will certainly clarify the picture even further.

However, in Liberal circles it is feared that these internal disputes can destroy the possibility that the party will continue to hold power. Losing the mayoral positions due to factional splits in Cali, Medellin, and Barranquilla, with the aggravating consideration that the same thing happened in past elections in Antioquia and in the Cauca Valley. This is a warning signal that cannot be allowed to pass unnoticed by the leaders of the Liberal Party, keeping in mind the fact that Pastrana and Navarro are strong candidates with a depth of support by public opinion, despite the fact that they now have no representation in the government in Santa Fe de Bogota. There are leaders who are aware of the risk and the kind of political suicide signified by a Liberal break with the government or burying its internal contradictions. Therefore, they are looking for an improvement in relations between the executive and Congress, that is, between President Gaviria and the party that carried him into power and that today does not feel committed to his administration.

Paraguay

Rodriguez Rejects Coup Rumors, Military Unrest

PY2404174692 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 24 Apr 92 p 12

[Excerpt] On 23 April, President Andres Rodriguez completely dismissed rumors that were circulating some

days ago about an eventual coup d'etat and about alleged misunderstandings among high-ranking military commanders. He termed the rumors street "gossip." "I have not lost any sleep over them," the chief of state stressed. "They are pure gossip," he reiterated, and he maintained that there is total unity in the Armed Forces.

Asked about the cavalry's loyalty, which was voiced by Brigadier General Lino Oviedo, the Army 1st Corps commander, Rodriguez said: "I have lost no sleep over the gossip that was circulating in the streets." He was referring to rumors that were circulating recently about alleged misunderstandings among high-ranking military commanders. In some cases, the rumors went even further, mentioning an eventual coup d'etat.

Referring to this topic, the chief of state said: "We have known each other for a very long time; we have complete confidence; and, of course, respect, obedience, and discipline are our obligations. We understand our obligations, therefore, and we know each other very well within our roles," the chief of state said, and he insisted that the rumors are pure "gossip."

"Not just because he (Lino Oviedo) has expressed this loyalty, I am very sure that the Armed Forces have, if I may say so, some confidence in me and they see me as a father because I received all these boys (he looks at Lino Oviedo) as sub-lieutenants when I was a captain or a major, a unit commander."

"They are my sons so if they turn out badly, I am to be blamed for having coddled them," he added.

Rodriguez was asked whether there is complete unity in the Armed Forces; he answered: "Without a doubt, you can be very sure of that."

On 23 April, the president presided over a ceremony at the headquarters of the 3d Cavalry Regiment commemorating the Day of the Horseman, which coincides with the Day of Saint George, the patron saint of the Cavalry. [passage omitted]

Cavalry's Loyalty Affirmed

PY2404183492 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 24 Apr 92 p 12

[Text] Brigadier General Lino Oviedo, commander of the Army 1st Corps, on 23 April reaffirmed to President Andres Rodriguez "the incorruptible loyalty that the Paraguayan Cavalry has for its commander in chief." In another passage of his address, Oviedo said: "We repudiate the false rumors that promote the obscure purposes," going on to condemn "corrupt individuals and drug traffickers."

Several ceremonies were held at the Colonel Vicente Mongeles Base, headquarters of the 3d Cavalry Regiment, where Oviedo gave his address. President and Mrs. Rodriguez, other high-ranking civilian and military authorities, members of the diplomatic corps, and special guests also participated in the ceremonies.

In another passage of his address, Oviedo said: "We repudiate the false rumors that promote the obscure purposes of those who prefer to see the fatherland submerged in anarchy, which is a propitious state of affairs for satisfying sectarian ambitions."

"Our decisive efforts in the fight that we have declared on corrupt individuals and drug traffickers, a danger to and the scum of humanity, who destabilize a country's internal order with their incursions, corrupting its authorities and society by creating an atmosphere of uncertainty and putting obstacles in the way of democracy and the nation's development," he added. [sentence as published]

Ministries, Companies To Cut Costs 20 Percent

PY2404184392 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 20 Apr 92 p 12

[Text] All executive branch ministers and presidents of state-owned enterprises have received explicit instructions to reduce their current expenses by approximately 20 percent this year. The Finance Ministry, which supervises the budget implementation, has frozen 45 billion guaranies of the budget under the entry called contingencies allowances for current expenses. This means that no public institution or state-owned enterprise will be able to reprogram its budget.

President Rodriguez has ordered that existing budgets may not be reprogrammed to allocate contingency allowance funds to pay salaries and per diem allowances, or to appoint new public employees.

This measure is expected to save 45 billion guaranies in contingencies allowances for current expenses. Some 61 billion guaranies were allocated in the 1992 budget to provide a "buffer." Of this over 15 billion guaranies were already reprogrammed during the first quarter. The remaining 45 billion guaranies are now frozen.

This saving will allow the Finance Ministry to offset the 21 billion guaranies budget deficit which will result from waiving the collection of taxes under Law 1003/64 on the marketing and export of cotton, and any other deficit that may crop up in the budget. A study has shown that the Finance Ministry will thus save over 20 percent of its current expenses this year.

There will be no budget deficit according to some economists who are projecting the deficit of the first quarter of the year over the entire current fiscal year. During the first quarter there were many unpredicted expenditures, such as payments of interests and overdue debts, which caused the deficit. Government sources have explained that if the deficit of the first quarter is projected over the whole year, an annual deficit will be shown but since the expenditures from January to March are high and disproportionate, it will give a false result. Moreover, since the Finance Ministry by law cannot spend what it does not collect, the deficit predicted by some economists is not correct.

The conclusion is that there will be no budget deficit, but it is considered improbable that a fiscal surplus of 1.5 percent of the gross domestic product will be maintained until the end of 1991.

Peru

Alan Garcia Interviewed on Political Views

PY2404212592 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0150 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Interview with former President Alan Garcia Perez from "El Mirador" program by Patricio Banados; place and date not given—monitored in progress]

[Text] [Garcia] ... so that he who did it was later considered a failure.

[Banados] Was your government more inclined to adopt an authoritarian stand in the economic and social areas rather than relying on—let us say—technical plans?

[Garcia] That could be considered a mistake. Yet to criticize authoritarianism sometimes leads to passive attitudes and to inactivity, which is what we get when we talk about spontaneous, unrestricted free market. Consequently, all excesses are negative.

[Banados] Speaking about passive attitudes and inactivity, you and your government have been charged with corruption.

[Garcia] I believe that I am in the fortunate position of having been—and I can see this positive point in a negative situation—the only Latin American president in many years whose expenses, income, checks, and bills for the past 15 years, starting before I became president, have been analyzed by congressional commissions, prosecutors, and judges. I can tell you that the conclusion was that a whole lot of totally groundless remarks were thrown out. Documents written by an investigator in Cuba or in Miami—a Cuban in Miami—have been maliciously used, for propaganda purposes, against me. The document said that I have $50 million. After the international scandal, the investigator confessed that he never actually investigated anything, that he obtained the data from those who contracted him in Peru, and that they still owe him the money they promised him. So who will now punish all those liars?

[Banados] Will you take legal action in this regard?

[Garcia] I believe legal action should be taken, but without attaching too much importance to the matter. In politics, support is conveyed through votes, but sanctions also come through votes.

[Banados] Speaking about votes, do you intend to continue seeking votes? Will you run for president?

[Garcia] I intend to win votes for my party, the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] —the socialist democratic party of Peru, to make it clear to our Chilean brothers. I intend to continue working in the opposition. I have just been reelected as secretary general of the APRA.

[Banados] Will you run for president?

[Garcia] I have ruled this out because I believe that the destiny of a politician is not just to be president, especially if he has already been president. It is always believed that politicians are driven by an overwhelming desire to be president. It is right, it is right [Garcia repeats himself]. There are many...

[Banados interrupts] You don't have that desire, do you?

[Garcia] ... ministers, senators who say 'I do not want it but please go ahead,' or 'sour grapes...'

[Banados] You are telling me that you will not run for president, right?

[Garcia] I am not saying either yes or no. I do not want to speak for destiny or providence. People propose but only God disposes. I can say yes or no, and you will tell me that I am a liar if something else happens later, right? Let me say that I do not have the desperate adolescent longing for the presidency because I was president at 35, an age when many people are just beginning their independent political life. Consequently, I do not have the attitude of despair that is usual in many of my countrymen, and of your countrymen also. [chuckles]

[Banados] Going back to the issue of corruption, and putting aside your own personal case, officials of your administration might have been involved in corruption. To what degree do you feel responsible for it?

[Garcia] I believe that it is the same the whole world over. I believe that if anyone in the Chilean Administration now asks for a bribe from someone participating in a call for offers or who make a purchase for the state, this does not involve President Aylwin. For God's sake! I am not the mother of all public bureaucrats and not all bureaucrats belonged to my party either. Consequently, I believe that those things should be punished, and that they are part of the vast range of events in democracy. I do not conceal them either. If someone finds out that Alan Garcia's closest assistant is engaged in a dirty deal, well, let them hang him. I am not saying that there are no deals in this or any other government. Yet it would be wrong if I tried to conceal it. There are worms and crows, but there are also judges, investigators, and congressmen.

Sir, during my government term, the press enjoyed the broadest freedoms in the continent. I was insulted and everyone called me a (?son of a bitch). I never harassed a journalist. When there is press freedom it is very difficult for corruption to prevail like it does in totalitarian and dictatorial regimes, and many people know this. When there is press freedom, free union activities, and free political parties, and when everyone is watching the president, tell me whetner there is a chance for dirty deals of the type that are made when there is no freedom at all. Democracy is the first precondition for morality.

[Banados] Why do you think Latin American democracies are under a permanent threat from their own Armed Forces?

[Garcia] Well, you are generalizing the case of Chile to all of Latin America. This does not happen in all of Latin America. Even if it did happen in Chile over a specific period and for a long time, I do not think that the Peruvian Armed Forces today feel that they are untarnished saints with the skills to govern Peru. If they believe that they are, they would be seriously wrong and I will be the first to tell them that they cannot maintain power without the support of the people.

[Banados] Your words suggest that Latin America has not been a continent of coups.

[Garcia] No. What I mean is that we should neither generalize or exaggerate matters and experiences that are very specific.

I believe that insurgency can appear anywhere because there are ambitious people in all countries. You cannot deny that over the past 20 or 30 years, Latin America has experienced a rather different chapter. This, however, does not mean that there are no more foolish, incapable, and immoral people who want to seize power through a coup. Yet they are a minority and they no longer succeed.

[Banados] There are people who believe that there is less terrorism and crime during authoritarian military governments, and that such governments can enforce economic models that are harder at the beginning but more efficient in the long run.

[Garcia] Ha, ha, ha! Ask Brezhnev and the Soviet Union how their strong, militarized and almighty government ended. I laugh at this interpretation. Totalitarian dictatorial governments do not publicize what is really going on. Russia appeared as an almighty nation, but it was really rotten and undermined. That display of enlightenment and militarism does not impress me, because the actual course of events continues from within.

[Banados] What is your position toward drug trafficking and the ongoing negotiations with the United States?

[Garcia] As president, I promoted negotiations between Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, and the United States. It was at my initiative that we invited President Bush to ensure that he understood, first, that the drug issue is not an electoral U.S. issue upon which to make an electoral banner every four years; Second, that the drug problem will not be resolved if they do not resolve their own psychological and cultural problems that create the large U.S. demand; Third, that military actions in our countries or in Peru will only serve to aggravate problems and; Fourth, that a replacement crop within the economy is necessary, and that the United States should commit itself to investing in production areas, in the coca-producing areas.

If a farmer earns 100 [not further identified] per hectare of cultivated cocoa or coffee and someone offers him 1,000 for the same hectare provided he produces coca, what will the farmer do? What would you do? I am sure that you would plant coca. That does not mean he is a drug trafficker or that he is poisoning the U.S. youth. It is a matter of profits.

[Banados] So, if I can get rich by planting poison, I should go ahead. Doesn't that mean that a moral law is being disregarded?

[Garcia] Look, producing coca leaf is one thing and the poison put on the streets of Miami or New York is something completely different. You should differentiate. Second, I am sure that not just you, but also Messrs. Bush, Brady, and Baker, if they lived in Huallaga Valley, and if they could earn 100 from cocoa or 1,000 from coca, would plant coca, precisely because of the free market philosophy, the philosophy of business efficiency and choice which they advocate.

If these men say they would not choose coca they would be betraying their own philosophy.

[Banados] Mr. Alan Garcia, thank you very much.

Media Reports Politics Returning to 'Normal'

PA2704140192 Lima Frecuencia 2 Satellite Television in Spanish 1400 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] It has been 21 days since democracy was suspended and constitutionality was interrupted. The troubled waters of national politics have begun to recede and the black storm clouds that had been growing on the horizon in the form of a second self-designated constitutional president for reconciliation, have started to dissipate. [recorded portion of President Alberto Fujimori indistinct]

There is no doubt that President Alberto Fujimori is consolidating his government of national emergency and reconstruction based on four main pillars:

1. The firm support of the Armed Forces, which was reaffirmed on 21 April at the Presidential Palace with the presence of the commanders of large units, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the chief of the National Police. This firm support was also obvious at several military activities during the week, the anniversary of the National Aerial Photography Service and Army Engineers' Day. This support was directly expressed when they met with the OAS mission.

2. The people's support, expressed during a rally that filled San Martin Square on 22 April, as well as the daily demonstrations in the various districts and settlements that the president has toured.

3. The recognition of the U.S. Government, followed by a telephone call from President Bush to President Fujimori during the early hours of 23 April. This recognition was echoed in a shower of statements by the most important governments of Latin America, Spain, and Japan.

4. The support from the country's business and production sectors for the president and for the continuation of the economic plan created by Carlos Bolona. This support includes the participation of Jorge Camet, a construction businessman, on the ministerial team.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] Do you hereby swear to carry out the duty proffered upon you as minister of industry, tourism, commerce, and integration?

[Camet] I do.

[Fujimori] If so, may God bless you. If not, may He and the country hold you responsible. [end recording]

Carlos Bologna, who had submitted his resignation as economy and finance minister due to the cool welcome he received in the United States, demanded that in order for him to remain in office those ministers who made him feel uneasy had to be replaced—one for having publicly called him fickle and another for having presented an alternate economic plan in his absence. As a result of Bolona's move, Absalon Vasquez Villanueva's position as minister of agriculture has become quite uncertain. This is because Vasquez is trying to bring back a populist type of land reform.

The president's efforts to validate his position have gained strength with the presentation of a political timetable on 21 April. At the same time, the Armed Forces, which have been alert and active, recently disrupted the Shining Path propaganda apparatus. It also penetrated the well kept secrets that the [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] MRTA had hidden in the diskettes of several computers, which the bloodthirsty Peter Cardenas had at his disposal. Cardenas was the guardian of the so-called people's jail, which was nothing more than a foul-smelling underground pigsty where the MRTA held businessmen they used to kidnap and hold for ransom. The Armed Forces also have freed several native communities in the jungle from the inhumane slavery which the Shining Path had subjected them.

Contrary to the disastrous reports that some correspondents have sent abroad, life in the country's major cities—particularly in Lima—go on as normal. One of the 80 foreign journalists who have entered the country, however, felt quite overwhelmed by the fast succession of news events and cabinet changes, and misreported that people who were sure to stay were leaving instead. Such cases are those of former Foreign Minister Blacker Miller and former Minister of Industry Victor Joy Way. Other events effected the journalist, such as the accident involving a truck hauling sulphuric acid that threatened Lima's water supply, but was controlled in time. Another event was the downing of the U.S. Air Force C-130 airplane carrying 16 passengers by two Peruvian fighter planes that took off from a Peruvian Air Force Base in Talara. The planes opened fire after the U.S. airplane failed to respond to international signals sent by the Peruvian pilots. The Hercules C-130 had tried to escape when it was 550 km off its authorized route. It had taken off from the Tocache Air Port toward Panama and was supposed to follow the air route that overflies Juanjui, Tarapoto, Yurimaguas, and Andoas, until it crossed the Ecuadoran border. The aircraft was sighted over the Pacific Coast, where there are important Peruvian military installations.

Another event that caused strong reaction, especially among European journalists, was the swearing in of Maximo San Roman as the president of a self-styled constitutional government.

[Begin San Roman recording] It is this change to democracy that I announce today, by way of a government of national reconstruction and unity...national reconciliation and unity [corrects himself]. I pledge my life, my very being, all my possessions, and all that I own toward that possibility and hope. [end recording]

The foreign journalist said that all our country needed was a director and a scriptwriter, because the events seemed to come from a movie.

Moving from words to action, Alberto Fujimori ordered the most extensive purge in the history of the judicial branch. The degree of corruption in this institution was one of the two reasons for the 5 April announcement. The government removed virtually all of the Supreme Court justices at one time. The only ones spared were Jose Antonio Silva Vallejo, Marco Urrelo Alvarez, Victor Raul Castillo, Wilber Vaca, Luis Serpa Segura, and Moises Pantoja Rodulfo. In some cases the removal of 134 magistrates from office in Lima and Callao was excessive, as several judges and prosecutors were dismissed for their connections with the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance], or due to friendship with APRA leaders. The dismissal of Judge Lorenzo Matos Becerra, who presided over the First Penal Court, was an abuse that the official could not take; he died on 25 April after being confined to his bed due to hemiplegia since October 1991.

The government is determined to go even deeper to clean up the judiciary. All active magistrates and their closest relatives must submit sworn statements concerning their possessions and their income so that the government can determine illegal enrichment. There will no longer be judges who enter the judicial system poor and accumulate homes, cars, and other riches of dubious origin within short periods of time.

To prevent the activities of dismissed officials, the government has modified the penal code to provide for stiff penalties of four to eight years imprisonment for anyone who would dare to usurp government authority.

President Alberto Fujimori went out to mingle with the people at several rallies during the week, which differed from the organized demonstrations of recent years in which trucks and banners were used. This time he had to climb on the roof of two trucks that had been donated by Japan. As the crowd was unable to see him, a table was placed on top of the trucks and it was still necessary to

place a chair on the table. During his speech, Fujimori played with fire, as he asked the media to tell the truth.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] The local and the foreign press must report this. This happens all across Peru, as more than 90 percent express their profound support. [end recording]

Some of the demonstrators began throwing rocks at several journalists' vehicles parked nearby.

In the other camp—that of Maximo San Roman—things did not work our as he had expected. San Roman realized that he did not have the support of the Armed Forces, as Felipe Osterling had promised, or international solidarity, as Javier Barron has assured him; quite the contrary. The Bush Administration was astonished to hear that they were planning to form a cabinet that included distinguished leftist intellectuals, some of whom were followers of Alfonso Barrantes and others of Silverio Velasquez, such as Enrique Bernales and Gonzalo Garcia Nunez of the Revolutionary Socialist Party [PSR], Carlos Amat Y Leon, a Barrantes follower, and Oscar Dancourt and Oscar Hugarteche of the Mariateguist Unified Party.

Wisely, over the weekend of 25-26 April, San Roman's right-wing, which includes the Popular Christian Party, the Popular Action Party, Liberty Movement, and the Solidarity and Democracy Party, decided to remain silent and take a few trips around the country and abroad.

Decree Dismisses Bank Board President, Member

PY2704233292 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 27 Apr 92 p 106563

[Decree Law No. 25451 issued by the Peruvian Government in Lima on 25 April]

[Text] Decree Law No. 25451

The President of the Republic
Heading the Emergency and National Reconstruction Government
With the Approval of the Council of Ministers
Issues the Following Decree Law:

Single Article. To dismiss, as of 25 April, Jorge Chavez Alvarez, president of the Central Reserve Bank [BCR] executive board, and Ricardo Raygada Vera, BCR executive board member, in keeping with the Guidelines of the Emergency and National Reconstruction Government Law.

Issued at Government House in Lima on 25 April 1992.

Alberto Fujimori Fujimori—Constitutional President of the Republic
Oscar de la Puente Raygada—Council of Ministers President and Foreign Affairs Minister
Victor Malca Villanueva—Peruvian Army Division General and Defense Minister
Carlos Bolona Behr—Economy and Finance Minister
Juan Briones Davila—Peruvian Army Division General and Interior Minister
Fernando Vega Santa Gadea—Justice Minister
Victor Paredes Guerra—Health Minister
Absalon Vasquez Villanueva—Agriculture Minister
Jorge Camet Dickmann—Industry, Foreign Trade, Tourism, and Integration Minister
Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka—Energy and Mines Minister
Augusto Antonioli Vasquez—Labor and Social Promotion Minister
Alfredo Ross Antezana—Transportation and Communications Minister
Jaime Sobero Taira—Fisheries Minister

I hereby order publication and enforcement of this decree.

Lima, 25 April 1992

Alberto Fujimori Fujimori, constitutional president of the Republic
Oscar de la Puente Raygada, Council of Ministers president and foreign affairs minister
Carlos Bolona Behr, economy and finance minister

Decree Accepts Resignations

PY2704234892 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 27 Apr 92 pp 106563, 106564

[Decree Law No. 25452 issued by the Peruvian Government in Lima on 25 April]

[Text] Decree Law No. 25452

The President of the Republic
Heading the Emergency and National Reconstruction Government
With the Approval of the Council of Ministers
Issues the Following Decree Law:

Single Article. To accept the resignations from the post of Central Reserve Bank Executive Board members submitted by Hector Flores Samanez and Julio Velarde Flores, and to convey to them appreciation for their services.

Issued at Government House in Lima on 25 April 1992.

Alberto Fujimori Fujimori—Constitutional President of the Republic
Oscar de la Puente Raygada—Council of Ministers President and Foreign Affairs Minister
Victor Malca Villanueva—Peruvian Army Division General and Defense Minister
Carlos Bolona Behr—Economy and Finance Minister
Juan Briones Davila—Peruvian Army Division General and Interior Minister
Fernando Vega Santa Gadea—Justice Minister
Victor Paredes Guerra—Health Minister
Absalon Vasquez Villanueva—Agriculture Minister
Jorge Camet Dickmann—Industry, Foreign Trade, Tourism, and Integration Minister
Jaime Yoshiyama Tanaka—Energy and Mines Minister

Augusto Antonioli Vasquez—Labor and Social Promotion Minister
Alfredo Ross Antezana—Transportation and Communications Minister
Jaime Sobero Taira—Fisheries Minister

I hereby order publication and enforcement of this decree.

Lima, 25 April 1992

Alberto Fujimori, constitutional president of the Republic
Oscar de la Puente Raygada, Council of Ministers president and foreign affairs minister
Carlos Bolona Behr, economy and finance minister

New Bank President Appointed

PA2704145192 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] President of the Central Reserve Bank Jorge Chavez was dismissed this morning through Decree No. 25453. Chavez, who participated in a Lima Panamericana Television Network interview on 24 April, said he would not resign under any circumstance and that he would only retire from the bank's presidency if he was fired, which allowed him to avoid being put under arrest. The new Central Reserve Bank president is German Suarez.

New Attorney General Assumes Office 27 Apr

PA2704193592 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] We have an official communique from the Attorney General's Office: It is announced to the public that in accordance with Article 37 of the basic law of the Attorney General's Office, Dr. Hugo Ernesto Denegri Cornejo took office as the nation's attorney general on 27 April.

We reiterate: We now have a new attorney general. He is Dr. Hugo Ernesto Denegri Cornejo.

This document is signed by the general press and public relations office.

Uruguay

Foreign Minister Comments on Peruvian Situation

PY2704015692 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1940 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Montevideo, 26 Apr (EFE)—In remarks to the press, Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell said here today that the Peruvian Armed Forces and the church are clearly aware of the situation in Peru and have an accurate understanding of it.

Gros Espiell stated that the military supported Alberto Fujimori's coup d'etat because they believed Peru was on the brink of dissolution, and not as a result of discipline.

Along with OAS Secretary General Baena Soares, Espiell Gros headed the OAS mission to evaluate the situation. He is drafting a report in Montevideo for submission to the OAS members who will meet in Washington on 1 May.

Gros Espiell stated: "Any observer first notes a great split between the political leadership and the people's feeling. This is evident. People have no confidence in political parties, the Congress, the court, the constitutional tribunal, and the government."

He said: "What is happening is that the Peruvian people are extremely poor and have thousands of social problems; consequently, they resort to any solution. The common people are now hinting at the possibility that something new can be done. I do not take into account the polls because they are uncertain; besides, they have nothing to do with my mission."

Gros Espiell said: None of the protagonists—"neither the political parties, Fujimori, or anybody else," have in their hands the formula to solve the problem.

This is the reason for the essential role of the Armed Forces and the church.

He said that he talked with military men and agreed with them on the fact that this is a temporary situation.

Gros Espiell stated that military men "do not want power and take the position of supporting the efforts of Fujimori's 5 April coup."

He said that military men supported the president "not because of a matter of discipline, but because they were convinced that the Peruvian nation would dissolve if the previous situation prevailed."

Gros Espiell said: "This is the reason for their attitude and their decisive role in trying to solve the problem. Military men have the power."

Gros Espiell asked himself: "Who can tell San Roman and Fujimori: Gentlemen, you are not the solution. We have to return to constitutional legitimacy and this is the way to do it, and if not, we will act?"

He said that the answer was obvious, although he expressed his belief in a fact that attracted his attention; that is, "the fear of a direct reaction by the people—a fact that is normal and obvious in Uruguay. This fear is part of the political culture."

Gros Espiell noted to the press the "clarity" with which the Peruvian church observed the problem.

He said he "had a lengthy meeting with the Lima archbishop and the president of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference and obtained an accurate analysis and a very clear, rational view of the situation and how to overcome it."

Gros Espiell also analyzed a series of possible solutions—those of President Fujimori and the major businessmen who support him—which are included in the announced program and which can be corrected and improved.

Another solution could be installing an acting government made up of the main independent personalities, who can call for a national constituent assembly, reform the rigid Constitution, and then call for elections.

Gros Espiell said that after the meeting in Washington, he will return to Peru on 2 or 3 May—not to evaluate the situation, but to make proposals and participate on behalf of the OAS within the framework of respect for the principles of nonintervention and the self-determination of nations.

Venezuela

President Dismisses Terrorist Plot Threat

PA2504223292 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Report by Giovanni Daboin]

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez dismissed the possibility that terrorist attacks are being plotted against Venezuelans, he said in response to the warning issued by Herminio Fuenmayor, former military intelligence director, who stated he had information that a series of plans are being devised against President Perez; the writer Arturo Uslar Pietri; former President Rafael Caldera; and Attorney General Ramon Escovar Salom.

[Begin Perez recording] I do not believe this. Not even during the times of terrible guerrilla activities, when we had many difficulties, did personal attacks succeed. I trust that type of fighting will not gain a stronghold in Venezuela. [end recording]

The president was also questioned on other topics, such as the acquittal of those involved in the El Amparo case. He said there are several appeal courts remaining within the justice system.

[Begin Perez recording] Those who believe justice has not been served in this court may rest assured the review by other courts may yield a more satisfactory conclusion, which at least gives us a guarantee that these rulings may be reviewed for fairness. You should remember that it was I who asked for a review of the El Amparo case. A ruling has been made. I do not know what it is based on. I have not studied it; it is the decision of a court. We have the assurance and belief that a review will be made, and it is quite possible the outcome may be different. [end recording]

The president made these statements when leaving a meeting with member officers of the Institute of Higher Studies for National Defense [IAEDEN]. The president, accompanied by his economy ministers, exchanged ideas with Armed Forces representatives regarding the country's current times

Lastly, the president laid the first stone of what will be IAEDEN's investigation center.

President Perez Creates Local Protection Units

PA2804144592 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] On 25 April President Carlos Andres Perez announced the creation of Local Protection Units in Caracas and the central district. These units, devised by the Federal District governor's office, are to work with police and local residents to fight crime.

[Begin Perez recording] The creation of Local Protection Units—which brought us here to Plaza Bolivar in Caracas—fits a modern, full concept of the present security problem. One of the mistakes we have been making for a long time in Venezuela—a mistake I have pointed out on various occasions from this same place—is this dichotomy, this separation between the government and citizens. [end recording]

In his speech, Perez advocated putting an end quickly to the notion that the authorities are the only ones responsible for protecting the population, which was clearly a call for the effective participation of all local residents in the country's well-being.

[Begin recording, General Jesus Rafael Caballero, Metropolitan Police general commander] The idea is to incorporate the neighborhood associations in each area in the fight against crime; to supervise and do surveillance work from police stations; to control the circulation of police patrol cars and motorcycles; and to coordinate and plan patrols with the police, because the master's eye makes the mill go. Residents should know where the police or patrol cars are, because sometimes police or patrol cars are not on duty.

[Reporter] What do you think about the Local Protection Units?

[Caballero] These units lay the groundwork so local residents can participate in checking crime.

[Unidentified resident] Very good. Magnificent. We like the idea. Everything you have said is positive. We are legal neighborhood representatives and are familiar with the problems. We are with the president.

[Caballero] This is a great initiative and plan of the national and regional governments to incorporate and unify the efforts of neighbors and police. All of us, united, will create a single front to fight crime. As general commander of the Metropolitan Police, I pledge to make every effort to carry out this magnificent project. [end recording]

This event at Plaza Bolivar in Caracas could constitute a sort of pilot project to be applied throughout the country to fight crime with the participation of the various state security organizations.

At the end of the event, journalists asked Perez a number of questions regarding other subjects of national interest, including Social Christian Party Secretary General Eduardo Fernandez' decision not to support the national government any longer if the Consultative Council's proposals are not heeded.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct]

[Perez] I do not believe in gossip.

[Reporter] The oil workers' strike will take place on 27 April.

[Perez] I don't know. I will find out. In a democracy, there are bound to be strikes. [end recording]

Perez Orders Armed Forces To Inspect Weaponry

PA2504222692 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] According to a report from the Venezuelan Press Agency, VENPRES, Defense Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich ordered the Armed Forces Inspector General Office to inspect the weaponry of the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services, following orders of President Carlos Andres Perez.

The announcement was made by Defense Ministry spokesman Rear Admiral Jose Rafael (Uisis Lavie) to clarify reports that appeared in the 24 April morning newspapers in Caracas on inspections being made in various police stations throughout the country.

According to Article 64 of the Armed Forces, the defense minister is authorized to inspect all war equipment, police forces, and other armed groups—regardless if they are under the Armed Forces. Rear Adm. (Uisis Lavie) said these inspections are a routine task of the Armed Forces.

Military Troops Continue Surveillance in Merida

PA2604042592 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2122 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Caracas, 25 Apr (NOTIMEX)—On 25 April, military troops continued surveillance in Merida, in western Venezuela, while the police corps gradually resumed its work after the state government ordered its reorganization.

The measure ended three days of riots and clashes with students, who supported a strike by policemen and soldiers. The events left an official tally of one burned cargo truck and 10 stores attacked or looted.

The Andean Merida government issued a communique stating it had decreed "the reorganization of the corps and ordered the dismissal of policemen who continued to carry out undisciplined actions after 0600 on 25 April."

Merida Police Inspector Jose Morales reported, by telephone, the strike ended on the night of 24 April; the transfer and changes of personnel had commenced on 25 April; and that sanctions against the strike's leaders were expected.

Approximately 200 of the 4,000 Merida policemen demanded an increase in their wages from $140 to $215. The regional government, claiming its budget had been cut and it did not have the funds to meet these demands, presented a lower counterproposal.

The official communique read: "The state government does not make decisions under pressure" and added: "efforts to improve the living conditions of officers and policemen" will continue.

The police corps personnel have received wage increases of up to 125 percent in the past two years.

The situation in Merida was calm on 25 April. Morales said approximately 35 people, mainly minors, were still under arrest. The official communique, however, did not name the arrested people.

PEDEVESA: Activities Unaffected by Strike

PA2804044692 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] The oil workers' strike—called for by some trade union leaders of Lake Maracaibo's eastern shore in Zulia State—has failed. PEDEVESA [Venezuelan Petroleum] reported that the activities of its subsidiaries in the region have continued normally and that the call for a strike has not affected at all the area's oil production. PEDEVESA also reported that the strike only affected some activities of contractors in the fields of transportation and maintenance, resulting in a delay in the rendering of services.

Early in the morning, some workers of several oil industries located in Lagunillas partially heeded the call, but then they returned to work after a few hours. Trade union representatives of PEDEVESA's subsidiaries said the strike failed because of the tense political climate in the country. Representatives of PEDEVESA's subsidiaries, however, insisted that the strike failed to meet the legal requirements, proof of which is, they said, that PETRAZULIA—the region's largest trade union—did not back the strike, arguing that the country is experiencing such a crisis that a strike is harmful and counterproductive for Venezuela. Oil industry workers expect a solution to their hiring and salary payment problems. They expect their representatives and those of PEDEVESA's various subsidiaries to reach a positive agreement as soon as possible. It is worth mentioning that—thanks to the oil workers' civic position—public order was not disrupted in any oil industry areas. The National Guard, however, kept up constant surveillance of the oil facilities to prevent irregular occurrences.

[Begin recording] [Eduardo Lira, trade union leader] Trade union leaders have always been willing to talk.

Enough time has passed since November, however, for a satisfactory reply by the corporations to the workers' demands. We believe the talks should continue, particularly now that a collective contract discussion is about to begin. We should sit down with good spirits to talk. The trade union leaders are willing to continue the talks.

[Nestor Rangel, public affairs manager of PEDEVESA subsidiary Lagoven] Lagoven and the other subsidiaries have complied with their obligations signed with PEDEVESA and the Labor Ministry. As our people said, the situation seems to have a sort of personal touch. [end recording]

Now that the oil workers strike called for by the trade unions of Lake Maracaibo's eastern shore failed, the union leaders will meet next week to discuss the situation. They will take advantage of the disposition of PEDEVESA's various subsidiaries—after the subsidiaries complete the hiring process—to seek final solutions through dialogue for the problems in this area of Venezuela's economy.

Another strike that went unheeded was a police strike called for by some Metropolitan Police officials through anonymous leaflets. The policemen went out to the streets today to work as usual, heeding a call by Federal District Governor Antonio Ledezma. The governor agreed with General Celso Rafael Caballero in channeling properly the demands of the security agencies.

The truth is that some police commissioners and inspectors spoke to General Caballero and Governor Ledezma to request some benefits they regard as fair. These requests are being studied carefully by the authorities to calculate the money available and grant the policemen their demands as far as possible. General Caballero said policemen and officers have received considerable salary raises and that, for this reason, the majority of the personnel are not inclined to go on strike; on the contrary, they are willing to work harder to protect the population.

[Begin Caballero recording] Obeying instructions from the President of the Republic, the interior relations minister, and the governors of the Federal District and the state of Miranda, I have instructed a commision to present a sort of plan to revise salaries. We have been working to find solutions so the police can carry out their rightful duties and make socioeconomic improvements. [end recording]

Governor Ledezma said he is willing to talk with whomever is willing to talk but never under pressure, because—since he assumed office—he has regarded himself as just one more policeman.

[Begin Ledezma recording] We have signed a contract with an insurance company. Policemen already have hospitalization, surgery, maternity, accident, funeral, and life insurance benefits. This insurance will be extended to retired people. On 6 May, we will inaugurate the first community drugstore so policemen's families can buy medicines at low cost. In addition, we will soon open a large store to sell electric appliances to the families of policemen. We will sign agreements with MINDUR [Ministry of Urban Development] and FONDUR [Urban Development Fund] to seek resources from the Housing Policy Law to develop housing programs. [end recording]

Metropolitan Police Disregard Scheduled Strike

PA2704192792 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The Metropolitan Police strike scheduled for 27 April did not occur. Police went to work this morning as usual to perform their daily duties, thus heeding the call by Federal District Governor Antonio Ledezma, who was very pleased with their decision.

[Begin Ledezma recording] As I said on the afternoon of 26 April, the members of the Metropolitan Police are performing their duties as they have been doing for many years, serving the people, who recognize their work. I continue to be the police spokesperson with the government. My office has budget limitations, but we are making real efforts—within a framework of cordiality and discipline—to seek wage increases and social benefits. I am very pleased by the loyalty and obedience our police are displaying by disregarding the siren song of some irresponsible people who are ignoring the consequences such an action would entail. [end recording]

Ochoa on 'Unbending Latin American Nationalism'

PA2704205492 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1745 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Report by correspondent Alfonso Navarro]

[Text] Caracas 26 April (NOTIMEX)—Venezuelan Defense Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich stated that the "unbending Latin American nationalism" will make any future foreign intervention in the region very difficult, even if the objective of the intervention is to restore democratic regimes.

During an interview with NOTIMEX, Ochoa pointed out that although current world trends point toward a "weakening" of nationalism, in Latin America's case a "sensitive awareness of sovereignty and liberty" persists, which is not expected to change anytime soon.

In the region, there is a "firm nationalism that makes it very difficult for any country and even the Armed Forces to accept foreign intervention, even if that intervention is with the intention of reestablishing a democratic government".

Ochoa also stated that in Venezuela—where the government of President Carlos Andres Perez was able to avert a coup on 4 February—there is a trend toward normalcy and rejected the notion that a "few subversive actions" would ultimately threaten democracy.

Ochoa also said nonintervention occupies a prominent place in Latin America, even in unstable situations such

as the September 1991 coup in Haiti; the attempted coup in Venezuela; and the 5 September institutional coup by Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori.

He stated that the 20 December 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama "was a terrible insult to Latin America."

As President Perez said at the time, Defense Minister Ochoa repeated that a regional solution to the Panamanian internal conflict would have been preferable "to the humiliation of the U.S. invasion."

According to the Venezuelan defense minister, creating organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and the Organization of American States (OAS) after World War II was a "restricting" and "limiting" factor to the concept of sovereignty.

Ochoa rejected the possibility of applying to Latin America experiences like the Persian Gulf war, where a multinational force forced Iraqi troops to withdraw from Kuwait, with UN approval.

The defense minister's statements contrast with statements made by President Perez, who said during a recent NOTIMEX interview that "in the same way the entire world supported maintenance of Kuwait's sovereignty, so the OAS should mobilize when a country is being deprived of its sovereignty." President Perez' statements were a clear reference to the Peruvian situation.

Nevertheless, President Perez acknowledged that the idea of creating an OAS military intervention force is "not yet ripe" enough. At the same time, he stated that current world trends point toward supranational protection of the fundamental human rights of all nations.

But Ochoa opted to reject repeting the Panamanian experience, whereby "the big brother of the continent decided to solve an internal problem (General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime disregarding election results) by resorting to force."

The defense minister, who headed the counteroffensive against the February coup, insisted that the Armed Forces would "categorically" reject any foreign interference in the eventuality of another coup attempt in Venezuela.

Ochoa made his position clear after U.S. Ambassador Michael Skol, in Caracas, and Luigi Einaudi, U.S. permanent representative to the OAS, pointed out that the hemisphere "does not condone an attack against constitutionality."

According to Ochoa "that has been the U.S. traditional position and is true not only for Venezuela but for all of Latin America."

Defense Minister Ochoa declined to comment on the possible effects of the Peruvian political crisis on Latin American commercial integration. He restated that nationalism, although weakening elsewhere, cannot be ignored in this region.

"It is difficult to think about political unity" in the mold of the 12-nation European Community. According to Ochoa, "strong nationalist sentiments must be taken into account."